

Education Roadmap for Students with Medical and Mental Health Needs (ages 12 to 18)

Medical and Mental Health conditions can impact a child's education. Here are some questions to help guide conversations with parents, providers, and school staff about educational success. If more help is needed, ask your medical team if a referral to the School Intervention Program is needed.

Glossary of Terms

IHP: Individual Health Plan

ISP: Individual Service Plan

504: 504 Accommodation Plan

IEP: Individualized Education Program

ETR: Evaluation Team Report

*Terms may vary by state

Every Year Check-In

- Does school have updated medication forms for the school year? By law, students should only carry emergency medications (such as inhalers, EpiPen, or seizure medication).
- Does school have copies of hospital evaluations or reports (such as IQ, ADHD, speech, or physical therapy)?
- Is the plan (such as an IHP, ISP, 504, IEP) current? Does the student understand the plan?
- Has the current plan been reviewed with the school team or new staff? Are there any unique activities or field trips that may need extra planning for the student's needs?
- When is the yearly IEP review? Is the ETR is due this school year?
- Are there known potential symptoms and triggers? Does the student know what to do if they have symptoms?
- Is there a plan for managing absences, getting assignments, homebound instruction, or making up missed instruction time?
- Are there planned enrichment activities for this year or next summer? Do you need help with access?
- Are there established fitness routines, sleep and hygiene habits, and a homework environment?

12-18 Years

- Are you participating in all the school plan review meetings? Are you developing self-advocacy skills?
- Do you know the graduation requirements? Have you mapped out a graduation timeline?
- Does the IEP have a post-secondary transition plan?
 - Are you learning about careers?
 - Have you toured places of employment?

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- Have you explored job shadowing?
- Have you taken career interest surveys?
- Have you talked to your medical team about supports you may need for your desired career?
- Are you building life skills for independent living (such as increasing responsibilities and reducing supports)? Are you learning about financial literacy?
- Is the school team meeting regularly to talk about post-secondary planning?
- Have you started to think about post-secondary learning options (such as college, vocational, adult learning, high school equivalency exams)?
 - Have you looked at funding options and timelines (such as traditional versus non-traditional college, FAFSA, scholarships)?
 - Which adults might be willing to write good recommendation letters?
 - What are the admission requirements, timelines, and application deadlines?
 - What are the enrollment requirements and timelines?
 - Have you taken tours and talked to other students?
 - Are there any college testing dates or prep courses?
 - Do you have information on disability services (or access/student services) and how to get accommodations?
- If you are over 16, have you talked to your care team about a referral to Cincinnati Children's vocational/educational rehabilitation?
- Are you a part of any work-based learning or employment?
- Have you thought about job skill certificates (such as first aid, CPR, babysitting)?