

A Note to Teachers

Making the transition from high school to college or a full-time job can be a formidable task for any student, but the transition is even more difficult when the student has unique learning needs. Too often it is assumed that students will know how to make the transition smoothly and be successful in traveling down whatever path they choose. Furthermore, students often wrongly assume that “everything” will miraculously work out. For many students, the transition can be stressful and full of failures and disappointments.

Federal special education law requires that a transition plan be considered for every student by age 14 if he or she has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). An emphasis on transition is necessary and required. The material in this book will help prepare students for a successful transition. The material can be used as a complete curriculum or as a supplement to an existing program.

As students progress through their high school years, they need to make individual choices and decisions regarding life after high school. If choices are made for them, or if they don't learn how to make their own decisions, it is likely that students will not be successful. To make informed decisions, students need to learn how to gather information and use the information to develop a plan of action that is right for them. Students also need to learn the skills required to self-advocate, to obtain and retain employment, and to be informed consumers.

Students who complete the activities in this book should have easier transitions after high school. More importantly, when they experience a “bump in the road” and their original transition plans cannot be executed, students will have the skills needed to revise their plans and to seek out assistance when necessary.

An answer key has been included for all vocabulary activities.