



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



TO: Superintendents of Schools

FROM: Dr. Dianna R. Wentzell, Commissioner of Education 

DATE: May 17, 2016

SUBJECT: *Transition Bill of Rights for Parents of Children Receiving Special Education Services*

The State Board of Education approved the following resolution at its meeting on May 4, 2016:

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 10-76ll of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the *Transition Bill of Rights for Parents of Children Receiving Special Education Services*, and directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

The Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-76ll, required that the State Board of Education develop a written bill of rights for parents of children receiving special education services to guarantee that the rights of such parents and children are adequately safeguarded and protected during the provision of special education and related services under Chapter 164 of the C.G.S.. Further, the statute required that the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) annually distribute the written bill of rights to local educational agencies for distribution to parents at the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting.

Transition services are defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) as a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities. Transition services include instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills.

In accordance with IDEA, transition services must begin no later than when the child turns 16, or sometimes younger if determined by the PPT and updated each year. However, the United State Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs and current research strongly recommend that in order to be effective, transition planning must begin much earlier in a student's life. The *Transition Bill of Rights* will assist with this effort by prompting school personnel to begin the discussion about secondary transition at an earlier age. This critical knowledge will empower parents and students, working collaboratively with key district staff, to appropriately plan for life after high school throughout a student's entire school career.

The *Transition Bill of Rights* includes both the items required by the C.G.S., as well as, additional key information regarding secondary transition as recommended by stakeholder groups. It was designed to assist parents and students in understanding secondary transition and

the transition services that may be requested through a PPT. Also included in this document is information about where parents and students may find technical assistance through the CSDE, related publications and federally-funded parent and training information provided by the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center, and links to the CSDE's essential transition guidance documents and tools.

A copy of the *Transition Bill of Rights* is attached and must be disseminated to all parents, guardians, and surrogate parents of students receiving special education services in Grades 6-12 and students 18 years of age and older at a PPT meeting by the end of the 2015-16 school year. If the document cannot be disseminated at a PPT meeting by the end of the school year, it must be mailed to the parent, guardians, or surrogate parents prior to the end of the school year.

For your convenience, the *Transition Bill of Rights* will be translated into Spanish and once translated, will be mailed to your Director of Special Education and both versions will be posted on the CSDE Web site under [Bureau of Special Education/Secondary Transition](#). Additional guidance regarding the distribution, use, and documentation of the dissemination on the student's individualized education program (IEP), and other transition related information will be provided to Directors of Special Education Services via an Advisory from the Bureau of Special Education.

Any concerns or questions about the *Transition Bill of Rights* may be directed to Dr. Patricia Anderson at patricia.anderson@ct.gov or at 860-713-6923.

DRW:pla

cc: Charlene Russell-Tucker, Chief Operating Officer

Isabelina Rodriguez, Chief, Bureau of Special Education

Patricia Anderson, Secondary Transition Consultant, Bureau of Special Education

Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services

Attachment