

**Supported Decision Making:
Considerations When Students with Disabilities Reach the Age of Majority**

When the student reaches the age of adulthood where the transfer of rights happens, there are decisions that the adult student and parent may need to consider. In this continuum, guardianship is the most restrictive option on the continuum and supported-decision making is the least restrictive. Full guardianship is rarely necessary when considering the support students might need and should be reserved for students with the most significant disabilities. Even then, some of these students may be able to continue to thrive under less restrictive options. Be sure to provide the student and parents with resources for supported decision making when discussing options needed to support students with disabilities as transfer of rights are discussed. It is vital to remember that these decisions are family decisions. All resources and agencies that can help the student and parent with this discussion should be provided. Below is the link to a recording of the webinar about supported decision making and continuum of options. Please ensure your special education teachers, coordinators, parent mentors, counselors, school psychologists and school leadership are familiar with this information. Even with the best of intentions, advising full guardianship may restrict rights and dignity unnecessarily if a less restrictive option could provide the same protections and safeguards. Using the full continuum of options is the right choice to support the student and family through this decision-making process.