

FAMILY RESOURCES



Transition for Parents

BEGINNING THE TRANSITION JOURNEY

When embarking on a journey, the initial thought is, “What is the destination?” School life for the family and student with a disability is a series of paths and short term destinations:

- Entering Elementary School
- Transitioning to Middle School
- Transitioning to High School
- Transition from High School to a desired Post-Secondary Outcome

With each destination, there is a series of steps in the journey necessary to ensure success. As a family, it is critical to keep the destination in the forefront while planning the journey.

For this Transition Guide, the focus is on Transition from High School to a desired post-secondary outcome. Outlined in the following pages are areas to consider when planning the journey to the desired destination.(post-secondary outcome)

TRANSITION PLANNING TEAMS

The family and student are on this journey together and are key members of the Transition Planning Team! Other members of the team include teachers (regular & special education) and the transition coordinator (refer to- *Examples of Members of the Transition Planning Team* for a comprehensive list).

DETERMINING THE DESTINATION

There are many tools that a transition planning team can use to determine the desired post-secondary outcome:

- Ask for a copy of the “Georgia Action Plan for Transition – High School Transition Planning Checklist”. This checklist is for the parent and the student to complete.
- To develop a clear picture of the destination, consider Mapping, Person centered planning and/or creating a portfolio. (There are resource links included in this manual)
- Identify “hopes, dreams and fears” with the student.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES FOR THE JOURNEY

As with any journey, the destination can change. Each year revisit the destination that is decided and make changes along the journey as needed.

Once the destination is decided, many agencies and services are available. These agencies and services include: disability service directors from post-secondary schools; a vocational rehabilitation program and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). (refer to chapters in this manual for a more comprehensive list of *Agencies or Services Appropriate for Transition Planning*). Knowing what each of these agencies core responsibilities is to the disabilities community will be helpful when deciding on the services that will be needed for success.

Just as a map is helpful when driving to a destination, there are many tools and resources that can be beneficial.

- Assistive technology should be considered. Discuss with the Transition Planning Team the different assistive technology options and how they would be useful to achieve higher success.
- Keep a binder of all transition information that include:
 - the Individual Education Program (IEP)
 - the Transition Service Plan (copy of form in this manual)
 - the Summary of Performance (copy of form in this manual)
 - a record of all community based instruction job-sites, positions and experiences. Include dates, teacher comments and comments from the student.
- Seek out support organizations (references in this manual)
- Talk to other families who are in the same situation and have successfully transitioned a student to post school outcomes. Their experiences can be beneficial to you. Navigating a complex system can be daunting for most parents, and working with other parents allows families to collaborate efforts.
- Contact Georgia’s Parent Training Information Center (PTI), a federally funded service provided through the Office of Special Education Programs by Parent to Parent of [Georgia](http://www.p2pga.org) www.p2pga.org for additional resources.

TRANSFER OF RIGHTS

An 18 year old is considered a legal adult in Georgia so it is important to understand the “Transfer of Rights”. The term “transfer of rights” refers to the time when a student turns eighteen and the rights of the parent of the student transfer to the student. (Refer to the chapter on Self Determination for further information on Transfer of Rights.)

GUARDIANSHIP/ ESTATE PLANNING

Learn about guardianship and estate planning and if necessary, seek legal advice on what is best for the family. (Refer to the chapter in this manual for more information on *Guardianship / Conservatorship and Estate Planning*)

UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS

For students that need additional agency support beyond their time in school the Medicaid waiver is available but must be applied for early. If seeking a waiver for services through the DBHDD Region Offices, it is important to understand the process to avoid delay. The following should be followed during this process:

- It is recommended that application for Developmental Disabilities services be completed at least one year prior to graduation. With this application, it is important to attach the recent psychological.
- Within 14 days of submitting the application, a Screening Assessment Meeting should be scheduled.
- This screening requires copies of the following:
 - Proof of Citizenship – birth certificate, passport, permanent resident card
 - Copy of Social Security card or SS number
 - Copy of Medicaid and/or Medicare card
 - Copy of Social Security Benefit information
 - A list of current doctors’ names, addresses, and phone numbers
 - Psychological that includes IQ score and adaptive skills testing – Example would be the school psychological report for your son/daughter.
 - Copy of reports describing the disability completed by schools or by other service agencies (i.e. copy of the IEP)
 - Copy of guardianship documents (if applicable)

This process will determine eligibility for the student. The parent will receive a letter from the Regional Office stating if the student has been determined eligible for services and if he or she will be put on the planning list by the state. The planning list is a means for the State to determine the needs of individuals with Developmental Disabilities and plan available funding for the needed services.

Six months prior to transitioning out of high school, the parent will need to request the student’s name be moved to the “Short-term Planning List”. At this point a Short-term Planning List Administrator will be assigned to work with the family and the school system (if requested) to advocate for the services that will be needed for the student to achieve a desired post-secondary outcome!

When on the short term planning list, level of needs and funding plays a big part. It may be necessary to call the Regional Office (See Appendix A) to express concerns and needs.

If all is in order, including available funding, a letter stating that a waiver has been awarded will be sent to the family. A meeting will be scheduled with the Assessment Team that includes a nurse, a social worker and a behavioral specialist. This meeting can take place at the regional office, the school or the family’s home. In order to complete the assessment, the family will be asked for the “The Physician’s Recommendation for Pediatric Care Form” (DMA 6 form) to be completed by the family’s doctor.

The next step is to select a service provider Or determine if the participant/family will self-direct their waiver services.

When everything needed is in order, a “Prior Authorization”(PA) will be issued. A PA is the number that allows the provider to bill Medicaid for the services provided. It is recommended that the family follow up with their Short-term Planning List Administrator to ask the status of the PA.

For further information on this refer Appendix A and B of this document.

ENJOY THIS TIME!

Try not to allow stress and anxiety to overshadow this extraordinary time in the student’s life! Transitioning out of high school is a time to celebrate successes.

Plan for graduation by including students in senior activities such as Senior Pep Rallies, Senior Breakfasts, the Senior Trip and the Junior/Senior Prom. This will help the student focus on the success that has been achieved in school. This success is a direct result of family and parent involvement and is truly a reason for celebration!

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

GA	All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD)	www.aadd.org
GA	disAbility Link	www.disabilitylink.org
GA	Georgia Advocacy Office	www.thegao.org
GA	Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities	www.gcdd.org
GA	Parents Educating Parents and Professionals	www.peppinc.org
GA	Shepherd Center	www.shepherd.org
Nat'l	National Council on Independent Living	www.ncil.org
Nat'l	PACER -Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights	www.pacer.org
Nat'l	Reaching for the Stars	www.reachingforthestars.org
Nat'l	Resource Center to Address Discrimination & Stigma	www.stopstigma.samhsa.gov
Nat'l	Wrights Law (Legal)	www.wrightslaw.com

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## **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Assistive Technology can be the tool that allows for success! It can be as simple as a keyboard with larger keys to a communication device. Consider all tools and resources when planning for the transition from school to the adult community for students with disabilities.

|       |                                                  |                                                        |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| GA    | Georgia Project for Assistive Technology         | <a href="http://www.gpat.org">www.gpat.org</a>         |
| GA    | Tools for Life                                   | <a href="http://www.gatfl.org">www.gatfl.org</a>       |
| Nat'l | Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) | <a href="http://www.atia.org">www.atia.org</a>         |
| Nat'l | Able Data                                        | <a href="http://www.abledata.com">www.abledata.com</a> |
| Nat'l | Family Center on Technology and Disability       | <a href="http://www.fctd.info">www.fctd.info</a>       |

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BENEFITS PLANNING RESOURCE

GA	Benefits Navigator	http://www.benefitsnavigator.org/
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## **EDUCATION RESOURCES**

GA

Georgia Department of Education

[www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)

Parent to Parent of Georgia

[www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org)

GA

Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success

[http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=628&Itemid=125](http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=628&Itemid=125)

Nat'l

Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

[www.eric.ed.gov](http://www.eric.ed.gov)

Nat'l

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition

[www.ncset.org](http://www.ncset.org)

Nat'l

National Dropout Prevention Centers

[www.dropoutprevention.org](http://www.dropoutprevention.org)

Nat'l

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC)

[www.nsttac.org](http://www.nsttac.org)

Nat'l

Center for Parent Information and Resources

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<http://www.parentcenterhub.org>

Nat'l

Office of Special Education Program (OSEP)

[www.osepideasthatwork.org](http://www.osepideasthatwork.org)

Nat'l

Transition Coalition (KU)

[www.transitioncoalition.org](http://www.transitioncoalition.org)

Nat'l

US Department of Education  
[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

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EDUCATION RESOURCES – LAW

GA

Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success

http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=670&Itemid=152

[Nat'l](#)

No Child Left Behind

1. www2.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml

[Nat'l](#)

Wrights Law (Legal)

www.wrightslaw.com

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## **EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES**

These resources offer information about employment possibilities for individuals with disabilities. Knowing all the possibilities allows students to plan for the desired employment outcome.

GA

Benefits Navigator

<http://www.benefitsnavigator.org/>

GA

Employment First Georgia

[www.employmentfirstgeorgia.org](http://www.employmentfirstgeorgia.org)

GA

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

<https://gvra.georgia.gov/>

GA



Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success  
[http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=685&Itemid=148](http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=685&Itemid=148)

Nat'l  
Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities (COSD)  
[www.cosdonline.org](http://www.cosdonline.org)

Nat'l  
Job Accommodation Network - US Dept of Labor  
<http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu>

Nat'l  
National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth  
[www.nwd-youth.info](http://www.nwd-youth.info)

Nat'l  
The DO-IT Program (Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking and Technology)  
[www.washington.edu/doit/](http://www.washington.edu/doit/)

Nat'l  
The National Business and Disability Council  
[www.business-disability.com/index.aspx](http://www.business-disability.com/index.aspx)

Nat'l  
The US Business Leaders Network  
[www.usbln.org](http://www.usbln.org)



## **ESTATE PLANNING & GUARDIANSHIP RESOURCES**

Estate planning and guardianship are difficult but important topics. Understanding the implications are essential first steps in deciding how to accommodate for the future needs of an individual with disabilities.

GAParent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success  
[http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=504&Itemid=149](http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=504&Itemid=149)

Nat'l  
Academy of Special Needs Planners [www.specialneedsplanners.com](http://www.specialneedsplanners.com)

Nat'l  
Mass Mutual  
[www.massmutual.com/mmfg/prepare/specialcare/index.html](http://www.massmutual.com/mmfg/prepare/specialcare/index.html)

Nat'l  
MetDesk  
[www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com)

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INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCES

GA
Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success
http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=677&Itemid=164

GA
Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia
www.silcga.org

Nat'l
Independent Living Institute
www.independentliving.org

Nat'l
Independent Living Research Utilization
www.ilru.org

Nat'l
National Council on Independent Living
www.ncil.org

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## **LEGAL RESOURCES**

GA  
Georgia Advocacy Office  
[Thegao.org](http://Thegao.org)

GA  
Georgia Legal Aid  
[www.georgialegalaid.org](http://www.georgialegalaid.org)

Nat'l  
Academy of Special Needs Planners  
[www.specialneedsplanners.com](http://www.specialneedsplanners.com)

Nat'l  
CADRE (Legal)  
[www.directionservice.org/cadre/](http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/)

Nat'l  
Center for Parent Information and Resources  
  
[www.parentcenterhub.org](http://www.parentcenterhub.org)

[Nat'l](#)  
[Office for Civil Rights](#)  
<http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/>

Nat'l  
Wrights Law (Legal)  
[www.wrightslaw.com](http://www.wrightslaw.com)

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PARENT RESOURCES

- GA Georgia Learning Resource Systems www.glr.org
- GA Georgia Parent Mentors www.parentmentors.org
- GA Parents Educating Parents and Professionals www.peppinc.org
- GA Parent to Parent of Georgia www.p2pga.org
- GA Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success www.roadmap.p2pga.org

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## **PARENT TRAINING & INFORMATION CENTER**

PTI's were established under IDEA 2004 and is under the oversight of the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Georgia's PTI is Parent to Parent of Georgia which serves families from birth through 26 with a full range of disabilities.

- GA Parent to Parent of Georgia [www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org)

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PERSON CENTER PLANNING RESOURCE

The principle of person centered planning is to put the individual in the center of all that is needed for success and happiness. The dreams and needs of the individual are the prime focus that drive the supports to achieve them.

- Nat'l PACER CENTER <http://www.pacer.org/tatra/resources/personal>.

- Nat'l Inclusion Press
<http://www.inclusion.com/>

- GA Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success
http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=680&Itemid=143

- GA Center for Leadership in Disability
<http://disability.publichealth.gsu.edu/initiatives/pathsmapperson-centered-planning/>

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## **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION RESOURCES**

Keep an open mind to the possibilities of post secondary education for your son or daughter with special needs. Education has focused on least restrictive environment and with this focus our children with special needs have become more aware of the possibility of post secondary opportunities. Traditional college with supports might be all he or she needs. However there are

many more options now that offer a variety of non-traditional educational opportunities! Do some research and allow yourself and your son/daughter to DREAM....

GA Parent to Parent of Georgia/Roadmap to Success  
[http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=684&Itemid=147](http://roadmap.p2pga.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=684&Itemid=147)

GA Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium [www.gaipsec.org](http://www.gaipsec.org)

Nat'l Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) <http://ahead.org>

Nat'l The George Washington University Heath Resource Center [www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)

Nat'l Think College [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

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RESOURCES FOR GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

GA The Foundation Center - Atlanta <http://foundationcenter.org/atlanta>

GA Georgia College 411 www.gacollege411.org

GA Georgia Student Finance Commission www.gsfc.org

Nat'l College Board www.collegeboard.com

Nat'l FastWeb www.fastweb.com

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**STATE & NATIONAL RESOURCES**

GA  
Parent to Parent of Georgia  
[www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org)

GA  
Georgia Crisis & Access Line (SINGLE POINT OF ENTRY)  
<http://mygal.com>

GA  
Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities  
[dbhdd.georgia.gov](http://dbhdd.georgia.gov)

Nat'l  
Center for Medicaid & Medicare  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov>

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SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

You do not have to do this alone! Support organizations offer the resources and many also offer the emotional support to empower you so that you don't have the feeling of isolation.

GA	All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD)	www.aadd.org
GA	Autism Society of America/Georgia Chapter	www.asaga.com
GA	Brain Injury Association of Georgia	www.braininjuryga.org
GA	Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta	www.atlantadsaa.org
GA	Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia	www.epilepsyga.org
GA	FOCUS- Families of Children Under Stress	www.focus-ga.org
GA	Foundation for Medically Fragile Children	www.bwhandicap.com/foundati.htm
GA	Georgia Council for Exceptional Children	http://community.cec.sped.org/GA/home/
GA	Georgia Council for Hearing Impaired	www.gachi.org
GA	Georgia Parent Support Network - MH	www.gpsn.org
GA	International Dyslexia Association- Georgia Branch	www.idaga.org
GA	Parents Educating Parents and Professionals	www.peppinc.org
GA	Parent to Parent of Georgia	www.p2pga.org
GA	The Spina Bifida Assoc of Georgia	www.spinabifidaofgeorgia.org
Nat'l	Alexander Graham Bell Assoc for the Deaf	www.agbell.org
Nat'l	American Foundation for the Blind	www.afb.org
Nat'l	CHADD - Children and Adults w/Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders	www.chadd.org
Nat'l	Easter Seals: Disability Services	www.easterseals.com
Nat'l	Federation for Families for Children's Mental Health	www.ffcmh.org
Nat'l	International Fragile X Association	www.fragilex.org
Nat'l	National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)	www.nami.org
Nat'l	National Down Syndrome Congress	www.ndcscenter.org
Nat'l	National Family Association for Deaf- Blind	www.nfadb.org
Nat'l	United Cerebral Palsy	www.ucp.org

The previous sources may be of help to you as you consider the transitional needs of your student. While these sources are provided to assist you in your search, it is your responsibility to investigate them to determine their value and appropriateness for your situation and needs.

These sources are provided as a sample of available resources and are for informational purposes only. THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DOES NOT MONITOR, EVALUATE, OR ENDORSE THE CONTENT OR INFORMATION OF THESE RESOURCES. NONE OF THESE RESOURCES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE ADVICE OR GUIDANCE OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.



PARENT TO PARENT OF GEORGIA

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND INFORMATION TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- › One to One Emotional Support
- › Special Needs Database
- › Printed Disability Information
- › Newsletter
- › Volunteer Opportunities and Training
- › Special Services



<http://www.parenttoparentofga.org/roadmap/>

Parent to Parent of Georgia, Inc.
3805 Presidential Parkway, Suite 207
Atlanta, GA 30340

Phone #: 770-451-5484 Toll Free #: 800-229-2038 Fax #: 770-458-4091

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Division for Special Education, Services and Supports

The Parent Mentor Partnership is now celebrating its fifth anniversary of working together to increase parental involvement in special education. The partnership, which started as a small group of parents and administrators, now collaborates with more than 60 local school systems and over 140,000 families raising children with learning and/or physical challenges.

Created and partially-funded by the Georgia Department of Education's Division for Exceptional Students, the 62 Parent Mentors are moms and dads hired by local school systems to work with special education directors, parents, school teams, teachers and the community. Their goal is to build a bridge of communication between home and school. Together, they collaborate to increase parent involvement in solving concerns and gaining ground on targeted goals to improve all children's achievement. The Partnership, which meets 2-3 times a year statewide and four times a year regionally, is locally driven, which makes each program unique to meet the needs of the individual area.

Mentors build connections for families in the community, concentrate on transition needs of high school students and young children, lead task forces, organize training sessions, collaborate with teachers and increase parent involvement activities in schools. Most importantly, the mentors listen to both parents and educators and use their unique knowledge of both worlds to solve communication issues.

Who are these parents?..... Parent Mentors come from many backgrounds. Some live in the north Georgia mountains, while others live on the Georgia coast. They come from the cities, the suburbs and the rural areas of our state. The mentors' resumes include experience from corporate America to the family farm. One mentor served as a Major in the Army, while another served as a juvenile judge. Still other mentors taught school and ran stores, while others stayed home with their children.

While their personal histories varied, they shared many of the same challenges, frustrations and joys in navigating the education system while raising a child with a disability.

Parent Mentors' accountability is measured in part on the local district's comprehensive improvement plan. Collecting quantitative data is helpful in explaining mentor activities but does not tell the complete story of improved student performance. This year Parent Mentors are stepping into the world of cumulative data by writing anecdotal stories to go along with some of the data each district is striving to improve.

In this effort to increase parent involvement, Parent Mentors also team with other GaDOE divisions, particularly the parent initiatives in the [Title I division](#). They also look for

opportunities to combine efforts with local parent and community groups. The Partnership collaborates with Parent to Parent of Georgia, a statewide nonprofit team with a vast database. They act as a first stop for family information on special education services and resources.

The Parent Mentors lead activities in line with the Parent Teacher Student Association's National Standards of Parent Involvement which are evidenced-based, family involvement indicators. The 17 Georgia Learning Resource Systems also play an important role in supporting the training of the mentors as do the Division for Exceptional Students' district liaisons. In addition, a parent of a child with a disability leads the parent mentor effort at the GaDOE and is partnered with a staff education consultant.

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is modeled after a similar program in Ohio and began in five county districts: Catoosa, DeKalb, Fayette, Fulton and Grady. Most parent mentors today work 20 hours a week during the school year while some districts ask parent mentors to work fulltime and year-round.

To read more about parent mentors, visit the parent mentor website at www.parentmentors.org

The previous sources may be of help to you as you consider the transitional needs of your student. While these sources are provided to assist you in your search, it is your responsibility to investigate them to determine their value and appropriateness for your situation and needs. These sources are provided as a sample of available resources and are for informational purposes only. **THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DOES NOT MONITOR, EVALUATE, OR ENDORSE THE CONTENT OR INFORMATION OF THESE RESOURCES. NONE OF THESE RESOURCES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE ADVICE OR GUIDANCE OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

Agencies or Services Appropriate for Transition Planning

- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Regional Offices for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases (MHDDAD)
- Community Service Boards
- Mental Health Clinics or Day Programs
- Mental Health Services
- Employment programs through the community
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Family and Children Service (DFACS)
- Probation officers
- Private agencies
- Work
- Residential
- Day habilitation
- Private agencies for supported employment, residential services
- Disability service directors from post-secondary schools
- Volunteer groups
- Possible student mentors
- Civic organizations
- Georgia Parent Mentors
- Church, Synagogue, Mosque
- Person Centered Planning
- Business leaders
- Private physicians
- Private counselors
- Chamber of Commerce
- Social Security Administration
- Georgia Recreation and Parks Association

