

Transition Terms

Definitions and resources for words related to students with disabilities moving from school to adult life

Click on any of the terms in blue for additional information and resources on the topic.

4+ Services | When students receive high school special education services beyond the typical 4 years due to unmet graduation requirements or transition needs stated in the student's IEP.

ADA | **Americans with Disabilities Act** is a federal civil rights law for people with disabilities.

Age of Majority | The legal age when a person is no longer a minor and has the rights and responsibilities to make certain legal adult decisions, including ones related to the IEP process (age 18 in Iowa).

CAP | **Client Assistance Program** is a state program assisting individuals who have conflicts with programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act including: Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Iowa Department for the Blind, Centers for Independent Living and other Rehabilitation Act funded agencies.

CCO | **Consumer Choice Options** is an Iowa Medicaid program that allows individuals who are eligible for waiver services more control over how their services are provided, by hiring their own employees or purchasing their services.

CIL | **Centers for Independent Living** supports community living and independence for people with disabilities with resources and services to integrate people with disabilities fully into their communities.

CRP | **Community Rehabilitation Providers** assist people with disabilities with skill development to help them get a job.

Conservatorship | A legal proceeding that arranges for a person (a conservator) to make certain decisions about the property for a person whose decision making abilities have been determined insufficient or unsafe. *See also Guardianship

Day Habilitation Services | services provided by community rehabilitation providers that support a consumer in developing or maintaining life skills and community integration.

Disability Disclosure | The decision a person makes to explain their disability and its impact on their life.

DRI | **Disability Rights Iowa** is a legally based organization that aims to defend and promote the human and legal rights of Iowans who have disabilities and mental illness.

Group Home | Homes in the community where a service provider maintains the household and coordinates supports for the people with disabilities living in the home.

Guardianship | A legal proceeding that arranges for a person (a guardian) to make certain decisions for another person (called a protected person). *See also Conservator

HCBS | **Home and Community Based Services** are also called "waivers". Iowa has seven different waivers that provide service funding and supports to assist members to stay in their own homes rather than a medical institution.

Host Home | A community-based housing option where people with disabilities live in a private, family home where they receive waiver services and participate in family and community life.

IDB | **Iowa Department for the Blind** is a state agency that assists individuals with blindness or other visual impairments with employment, independent living, access to information and opportunities. (This agency is the counterpart to IVRS.)

IEP | An **Individualized Education Program** is an individualized plan for Special Education services for students with disabilities in K-12 education.

ISP | [Individualized Service Plans](#) document the HCBS waiver services and supports a member will receive.

IVRS | [Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#) assists people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and retain employment.

IWD | [Iowa Workforce Development](#) is a state agency providing employment services for job seekers.

Job Coach | A person who provides assistance to an individual with a disability to learn or maintain a job. This can include training and support at the job site.

MCO | [Managed Care Organizations](#) provide health care services to eligible Medicaid members including HCBS waiver services.

PASS | [Plan for Achieving Self-Support](#) is an SSI work incentive that allows a person with a disability to set aside income and/or resources for a specific time in order to achieve a work goal.

PLAAPF | [Present Levels of Academic Achievement & Functional Performance](#) is a statement in the IEP summarizing current academic levels and skills to provide the foundation for all program decisions.

Pre-ETS | [Pre-Employment Transition Services](#) are provided to students by schools and IVRS under WIOA including: Job Exploration, Work Based Learning, Opportunity Counseling, Workplace Readiness Training, and Self-Advocacy Instruction.

PSS | [Summary for Post-Secondary Living, Learning and Working](#) A summary of a student's academic achievement and functional skills, including how to assist the student meeting post-secondary goals.

SAR | [Support for Accommodations Request](#) is a document used to ask for accommodations in college. It documents accommodations that assisted the student in achieving goals.

Secondary and Post-Secondary Education | Secondary education is provided in high school. Post-secondary refers to education or training after a student leaves high school.

Self-Advocacy | The skill of communicating one's own thoughts, gaining information, building relationships and solving problems.

Soft Skills | A term that refers to the non-technical skills that impact how a person works. For example, communication, attention, problem solving and time management skills.

SSDI | [Social Security Disability Insurance](#) A federal program that pays benefits to workers and certain family members if they have worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.

SSI | [Supplemental Security Income](#) is a federal program that provides people with disabilities and who are low-income monthly cash assistance for food, clothing and shelter needs.

Ticket to Work | is a federal program for people who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and would like to gain financial independence through employment.

Transition Iowa | A website for youth with disabilities, families and the professionals who support them through transition to adult life from high school.

Sheltered Workshop | A setting where people with disabilities work together and receive support in a small group. Also known as "511 certificate holders" referenced in WIOA.

Supported Decision Making | is an alternative to guardianship that allows individuals with disabilities to make choices about their own lives with support from a team of people they choose.

Supported Employment | A model of work that supports people with disabilities to succeed in a competitive work environment.

WIOA | [Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act](#) is a federal law that requires job skills development for people with disabilities with the goal of competitive integrative employment.

WIPA | [Work Incentives Planning and Assistance](#) program provides information and counseling to help people with disabilities understand how job earnings impact SSI/SSDI income and healthcare benefits.