



# Transition Terms

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

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

**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.



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**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.