

# Working With a Support Coordination Agency: **What to Expect**

As your student prepares to transition into adulthood, you might be wondering: What should I expect when working alongside their selected support coordination agency?

**Here's what you need to know.**

## **1 The Support Coordinator Should Attend IEP Meetings**

You're already involved in Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings, and now that your student is approaching graduation, their support coordinator should attend as well. Your student, their family and entire support team will begin transition planning during IEP meetings, which will cover:

- Outlining the student's goals related to training, education, employment and independent living
- Identifying the student's strengths, interests and preferences
- Identifying strategies and activities needed to assist the student in developing or attaining postsecondary goals
- Determining a course of study for the student that goes beyond the duration of the IEP
- Deciding what consultation is needed from other resources so the student gets the right support
- Choosing what transition services are needed so the student can reach these goals

## **2 The Support Coordinator Should Meet with Other Transition Teams**

There is a team of people behind every transition resource, and a support coordinator should meet with these teams and inform students and their families about suitable services. In some cases, a support coordinator will put a student and their family in direct contact with these team members. Some of these resources include:

- Community-Based Instruction
- Person-Centered Approaches
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)

## 3 The Support Coordinator Should Help Students & Their Families Navigate Support Services

The state of New Jersey requires an Individualized Service Plan (ISP) – a comprehensive and customized document that coordinates and provides prior authorization for all NJ Department of Developmental Disabilities (NJ DDD) services and service providers – for those who are 21 and older. Your student’s support coordinator will take the lead in filling out this document, while communicating with your student and their family to record accurate information. NJ also requires the Person-Centered Planning Tool (PCPT), which is an informative discovery document that will help shape your student’s ISP.

The NJ DDD offers many services and supports:

- Assistive technology
- Behavioral supports
- Day programming
- Employment options
- Therapies
- Transportation
- Classes

Your student’s support coordinator should be there to complete the PCPT and ISP. While the support coordinator may ask your student and their family for accurate information, these documents are really their responsibility.

## 4 The Support Coordinator Should Help Move the Transition Along Quickly & Efficiently

Every transition is individualized and looks different for every student. However, support coordinators should assist with:

- Linking your students to applicable resources and services
- Helping your student fill out any necessary forms and documentation

This important work will help students, their families and school supporters like you navigate this transition successfully.

# About Skylands

Skylands is a trusted and proven support coordination agency in New Jersey. Our support coordinators form lifelong bonds with the families they serve and are dedicated to helping individuals with special needs choose and access the best services to thrive in the adult world.

