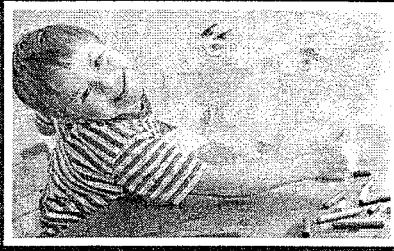


Get to the Heart of the Matter

The 82nd Legislature: Education Issues



SB 35 by Senator Zaffirini and HB 357 by Representative Rodriguez will help to ensure students with disabilities in Texas receive effective transition planning and services so they will be prepared when they leave school for further education, employment and independent living.

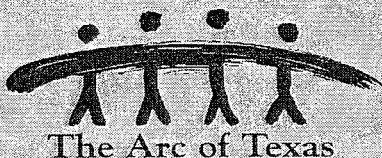
SB 35 and HB 357 will:

Require that transition planning **begin by age 14**. Waiting to start transition planning until age 16 is too late for many students. Starting transition planning at 14, when the student enters high school, will ensure students, their parents and schools establish post secondary goals and include goals in the student's Individual education plan that are designed to help them reach their post secondary goals.

Require **school districts to designate a transition specialist** with knowledge and experience in quality transition planning and services. The transition specialist will meet with students and their parents and with adult service agency representatives to help ensure interagency coordination for the student during the transition process. They will provide accurate and consistent information and answer questions of the student and parents about transition services.

Require TEA and HHSC develop an **online Transition manual** to provide consistent, timely and accurate information on transition planning and services to parents and students. The manual will include information on transition planning, employment and supported employment services; social security programs; community and long-term services and supports, postsecondary educational programs and services, information sharing with health and human services agencies and providers; guardianship and alternatives to guardianship; self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and self-determination; and contact information for all relevant state agencies.

Please support SB 35 and HB 357. Effective transition planning helps to ensure students with disabilities will be prepared for further education, employment and community living.



Creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be included in their communities

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