CHRISTI CARTER URSCHEL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
Transitioning to Higher Education with a Disability

This handout focuses on disability-related websites. For a more general resource on college and financial aid, see *Transitioning to College*.

**First Steps**

1. **High School Guidance Counselor**
   Following an assessment with the student, the counselor is often able to determine needs and make suggestions for future education, including scholarship, possibilities.

2. **Scottish Rite Hospital Social Worker**
   Meet with your social worker for transitioning tips. The Family Resource Center is also available for you.

3. **Texas Workforce Solutions (Vocational Rehabilitation)**
   [http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services)
   This Texas state agency can be an important partner in your transition process. As a part of the School Transition program, each high school has a designated Texas Workforce Solutions (TWS) representative. Contact your school’s guidance counselor for more information. You can call your local TWS office. Through the vocational rehabilitation program, TWS will help you prepare for a job and become more independent.

4. **Office of Disability Services at 4-year and 2-year Schools**
   Contact the Office of Disability Services at college(s) of interest. Speak to a representative to learn about the college’s services and support for students with disabilities.

**Transitioning Websites**

1. **Navigate Life Texas**
   Designed for families of children with disabilities or special needs. Includes a section on transitioning to adulthood, helpful videos and information on education and career options.
2. PACER Center (Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights)
   https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/
   The goal of PACER Center is to expand opportunities for and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

Disability-Related College Information

1. College Disability Support Offices (Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities)
   http://www.tcdd.texas.gov/resources/publications/texas-higher-education-guide-to-disability-services/
   List includes links to websites of more than 100 Texas college disability offices.

2. HEATH Resource Center of George Washington University
   http://www.heath.gwu.edu
   A national clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities. HEATH has information about educational support services, policies, procedures, adaptations and opportunities at colleges across the country.

   Texas college disability service information, educational alternatives, college planning for specific disabilities and much more. The Resource Guide is an excellent tool and is also available in Spanish:

4. National Center for College Students with Disabilities (NCCSD)
   http://www.nccsdonline.org/
   From the Association on Higher Education (AHEAD), NCCSD offers resources for college and graduate students with any type of disability, chronic health condition, or mental or emotional illness.
5. Think College! College Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities
   [www.ThinkCollege.net](http://www.ThinkCollege.net)
   Transition programs including degree and non-degree opportunities across the country.

6. *U.S. News & World Report* article with tips on the college search process for those with a disability

**Disability-Focused Financial Aid/Scholarship Information**

1. Apply for the Legacy Scholarship if you have been a patient of Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children! Visit this link for guidelines and application information:
   [http://www.tsrhc.org/legacy-scholarship-program](http://www.tsrhc.org/legacy-scholarship-program)

2. Be sure to contact your future institution’s Office of Financial Aid for specific scholarships, aid or student work-study information unique to that campus.

3. AAAS Entry Point
   [www.entrypoint.org](http://www.entrypoint.org)
   Internships for students with disabilities majoring in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science or business. Competitive application process for these national, paid positions through the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

4. Affordable Colleges Online – Scholarships for Students with Disabilities.
   Look under their “Resources” tab for a variety of tips including a page on “College Resources for Students with Disabilities.”

5. Exceptional Parent - Disability Associated Scholarships and Awards

The purpose of this list is to suggest resources on a specific topic. The information you gain should not be used in place of medical advice or consultation with a health care professional. If you have questions, please reach out to your doctor or appropriate health care professional.

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