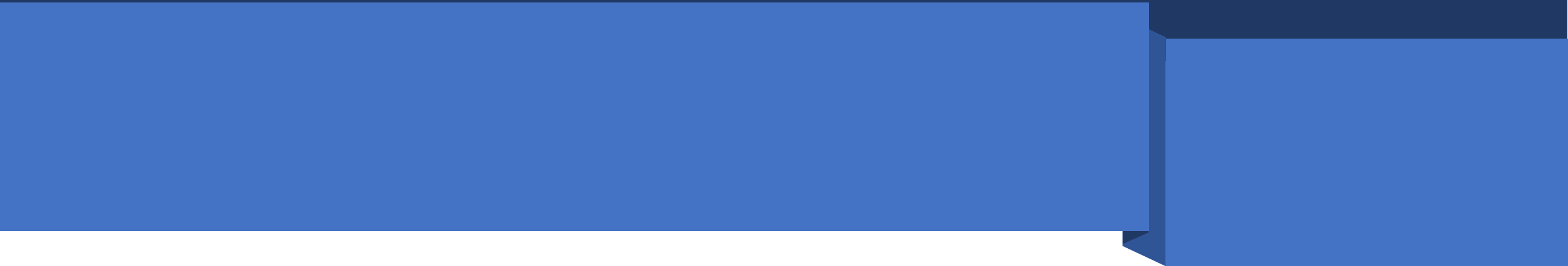


# Coordinated Pandemic- Related Transition Services



# What are Coordinated Pandemic- Related Transition Services?

“To address the needs of individuals with IEPs who reached or will reach age 22 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commonwealth has enacted Chapter 42 of the Acts of 2022 allocating \$10 million for transition “services for individuals with disabilities that reached age 22 between March 10, 2020, and September 1, 2023, and were entitled to special education services up to age 22.”

# Agencies Providing Services

The Department is currently collaborating with state agencies that provide adult services to qualifying individuals with disabilities.

- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
- Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)
- Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI) - starting in January 2023

These agencies will expand their services to provide supports for eligible young adults.

# Connecting Students and Families to Services

- Each agency will look at the young adults that they already serve to see if they meet the criteria.
- Each agency will use social media to post information about available services.
- DESE is seeking assistance from districts to reach out to former students who meet the criteria to provide information.
- DESE is seeking assistance from educator groups, community groups, and advocacy groups in providing information to eligible young adults.

# The Federation for Children with Special Needs

The Federation may be the first point of contact for individuals and their families

Ask what supports they are interested in, or describe what services are being offered

Ask where they are located (some services are only offered in specific locations)

Provide the caller with the contact information of the agency providing the services that will best meet their needs.

# Did you turn 22 during Covid?

If you:

- Turned 22 after March 10, 2020
- Remained enrolled in school until you turned 22 and have completed school

Then you may be eligible for services now.



**Participating state agencies: Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI), Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC).**

To find out more about extra services available to you  
Call 800—331-0688 or go to: [www.fcsn-org/transition-support](http://www.fcsn-org/transition-support)

The Federation for Children with Special Needs  
Information Center provides assistance in multiple languages.



# Department of Developmental Services

Family Support Centers will offer a variety of groups that appeal to the personal interests of the participants. The groups will be provided in the evenings and on the weekends and be offered in person. A group can consist of two or more eligible participants.

- Support offered through Family Support Centers:
  - Berkshire County ARC, Pittsfield
  - Better Community Living, Dartmouth and New Bedford
  - ARC of Greater Brockton, Brockton
  - Communities, Wakefield
  - Pathlight, Holyoke/Chicopee and Springfield/West Springfield
  - Plymouth County Family Support, Plymouth
  - People Inc., Fall River

Groups could include:

- Healthcare management
- Nutritional information and healthy eating practice
- Emergency-situation practice
- Technology skills
- Computer and Phone use
- Social Media and Internet Safety
- Self-Advocacy Skills
- Civic Participation Groups
- Networking and Social Skills
- Travel Safety and Practice (Public Transit, Ubers)
- Social Skills



# Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

MRC will identify individuals for engagement in available and appropriate MRC programs. This may include Vocational Rehabilitation Services or NextGen Services.

- Vocational Services could include:
  - Vocational Counseling and Guidance
  - Training/Educational opportunities leading to employment
  - Job Placement Assistance
  - Benefits Counseling
  - Participation in Youth Leadership Forum
- NextGen Services could include:
  - Learning, development, and mentoring in the areas of self-capacity, self-advocacy, self-realization, and self-sufficiency
  - Access to an Integrated Resource Team to provide wraparound support for employment goals
  - Development of a Career Focused Portfolio
  - Peer mentorship and Family Partnership
  - Internships and Apprenticeship opportunities in STEM fields
  - Benefits Counseling and Job Placement Assistance



# Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

MCB will identify individuals for engagement in available and appropriate MCB programs. MCB will offer a service voucher that will allow consumers to purchase the services that appeal to the consumer.

Services could include:

- Assistive Technology skills
- Computer and Smart Phone use
- Social Media and Internet utilization
- Self-Advocacy Skills
- Civic Participation Groups
- Networking and Social Skills
- Orientation and Mobility Training (Public Transit, ride share)
- Social Skills Groups
- Vocational Services or NextGen Services

# Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative

MAICEI Programs offer a fully inclusive college experience for students with documented intellectual, developmental disabilities and autism to learn alongside their non-disabled peers.

- Services include
  - Fully inclusive college experience
  - Full use of all campus services
  - Academic Support (Education Coach to assist in the classroom)
  - Social Support – Student Peer Mentors (introduce students to campus activities)
  - Navigation Skills
  - Time Management Skills
  - Internships
  - Person Centered Planning
  - Independent Living Skills