

Teacher’s Guide to PACER Center’s *Webinars for Transition-Age Students*

**Introduction**

PACER Center is excited to share with you a brand-new resource we’ve developed: *Webinars for Transition-Age Students.*

Each webinar focuses on a specific topic. The total running time for all 3 webinars is about an hour, but you have complete control over pacing viewing times in your own classroom and using the resources in this guide to enhance your students' experience with the information in each webinar:

* Webinar 1 - Laws that Help You Transition to Adulthood
* Webinar 2 - You & Your IEP
* Webinar 3 - Self-Advocacy Tools You Can Use

This guide is intended to function as a menu of resources from which you can choose the ones that best support your students’ unique needs, echo the particular transition topics that are most relevant to your classroom, spark the conversations that will answer your students’ burning questions about their own transition to adulthood, and give them the courage to speak for themselves.

The entire playlist of PACER Center’s *Webinars for Transition-Age Students* is available here, and a link to each webinar is also included in the pages that follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1TUfOjdLFw&list=PLMe9zDtTPTVfSx-D_-O23pQpLRBTws0vQ>

We hope this new resource is valuable to you as you accompany the transition-age students in your classrooms on their individual journeys to adulthood.

**Warm-up activity**

Materials required

Transition Trek: A Game for Planning Life after High School for Youth with Disabilities \*

Time required

Totally adaptable

Instructions

Engage your students in a game of questions about transitioning to adulthood. Students make their way to the center of the game board by answering questions in 8 categories:

* Home
* Jobs
* Health
* Civil rights
* Community
* Recreation
* Advanced education
* Getting personal

As the teacher, you ask the questions and have the freedom to adapt the questions for your individual students. Blank question cards are also included for every category so you can write your own questions, based on transition topics especially relevant to your class or of particular interest and importance to your students.

Get your students thinking about their plans for life after high school, comfortable talking about their dreams and fears, and excited about their journeys toward self-determination with this innovative board game from PACER Center. It’s also the perfect warm-up activity to *Webinars for Transition-Age Students*.

Note: Transition Trek is easily adaptable for remote instruction.

\* This game is available for purchase from PACER Center for $15. Call 952-838-9000 to place your order today.

**Webinar 1: Laws that Help You Transition to Adulthood**

Materials required

Platform for classroom viewing of the PACER Center webinar at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/E1TUfOjdLFw>

Time required

Total running time = approximately 15 minutes

Instructions

Teachers are encouraged to pause the webinar at any moment to discuss your students’ questions, thoughts, and reactions. Enhance your students’ experience with the information in the webinar through guided exploration of the following resources:

1. “My Disability Rights” page in the *Transitioning to Life after High School* section of PACER Center’s website. Hear from young people with disabilities talk about why they are excited to exercise their right to vote when they turn 18. Explore a *Disability History Timeline* with your students. Use an interactive, online map of Minnesota’s Centers for Independent Living to help your students find the one nearest to them and learn about what services and activities they offer to young people with disabilities. And more!

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/my-disability-rights.asp>

1. Information for High School Students about how Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) connect high school students with disabilities to work. Help students find the VRS staff assigned to their high school and learn how VRS staff could potentially help them on the road to employment. The resources here were created by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

<https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/youth/>

Because here at PACER we rely on evaluation responses to improve our work and maintain accountability to grant requirements, please support your transition-age students to complete the online evaluation form after viewing Webinar 1.

**Webinar 2: You and Your IEP!**

Materials required

Platform for classroom viewing of the PACER Center webinar at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/BIhq9LeM97A>

Time required

Total running time = approximately 35 minutes

Instructions

Teachers are encouraged to pause the webinar at any moment to discuss your students’ questions, thoughts, and reactions. Enhance your students’ experience with the information in the webinar through guided exploration of the following resources:

1. “Training & College Opportunities” page in the *Transitioning to Life after High School* section of PACER Center’s website. Watch an episode of Family Feud with a twist -all the contestants are high school students with disabilities, answering questions about they can get support in college. Meet students with intellectual disabilities who talk about their college experiences. Explore assistive technology that can help your students manage time and stay focused in a post-secondary training or college environment. And more!

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/training-and-college-opps.asp>

1. CareerOne stop, an online hub of resources created by the U.S. Department of Labor. Help your students explore careers and find training that matches their interests and strengths. And don’t miss the online video library!

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

1. “Employment Stories” page in the *Transitioning to Life after High School* section of PACER Center’s website. Meet high school students who share their stories about how their Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors helped them get the training for the careers they wanted. See real life examples of supported employment and customized employment. Start a conversation with your students about disability disclosure. Do all these things and more!

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/employment-stories.asp>

1. *Soft skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success*. Watch this video series with your students so they can see how new employees Lydia, Allie, Travis, Mark, Jason, and Jessica learn lessons in soft skills on the job. They all discover that improving their skills in communication, problem solving, teamwork, and showing a positive attitude are the keys to their success at work. This video series was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability and Employment Policy.

<https://www.pacer.org/transition/video/series.asp?se=39>

1. “Independent Living” page in the *Transitioning to Life after High School* section of PACER Center’s website. Listen to the stories of high school students with disabilities who have each found very different healthy hobbies they enjoy for adult life. Watch a comedy sketch about two friends who rent an apartment together before they establish any ground rules about boundaries and shared responsibilities. Hear advice from Jeff about how he learned to make all his own medical decisions, or from Mary about how she learned to talk to her doctors to help them see beyond her disability and relate to her as a person. And more!

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/independent-living.asp>

1. *Home Is…* a video series from PACER Center’s Housing Project. Josh, Barbara, Nathan, Joanna, Kevin, Dan, Charlie, and Sam are all young adults with disabilities who have moved out of their parents’ homes and into homes of their own. Hear them describe what home means to them and what they have learned along the way. Use these videos to help your students start picturing themselves living as independently as possible in housing that meets their individual needs and preferences.

<https://www.pacer.org/housing/videos-trainings.asp>

Because here at PACER we rely on evaluation responses to improve our work and maintain accountability to grant requirements, please support your transition-age students to complete the online evaluation form after viewing Webinar 2.

**Webinar 3: Self-Advocacy Tools You Can Use**

Materials required

Platform for classroom viewing of the PACER Center webinar at the link below:

<https://youtu.be/OIDzVXit44o>

Time required

Total running time = approximately 15 minutes

Instructions

Teachers are encouraged to pause the webinar at any moment to discuss your students’ questions, thoughts, and reactions. Enhance your students’ experience with the information in the webinar through guided exploration of the following resources:

1. “Advocating for Myself” page in the *Transitioning to Life after High School* section of PACER Center’s website. Check out the capers of Captain Self-Advocacy in his crusade to rescue a student struggling to participate in his own IEP team meeting. Guide your students through a variety of self-advocacy tools they can use at their next IEP team meeting. Get the 411 on disability disclosure from the personal experiences of four young adults with disabilities, who talk about why they made their own decisions to disclose their disabilities and how it changed things for them in their lives. And of course, there’s more!

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/advocating-for-myself.asp>

1. *I Know Me Workbook*, a workbook to help young people with disabilities understand their right to person-centered services throughout their lives. Start a conversation with your students about the importance of using their voices to make choices, dream out loud about what they want their lives to be, ask questions and explore different options that may be open to them, and go out into their communities to do the things they love and participate as equal members of society. This workbook was created by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Disability Services Division.

<https://disabilityhubmn.org/media/1059/i-know-me_accessible.pdf>

Because here at PACER we rely on evaluation responses to improve our work and maintain accountability to grant requirements, please support your transition-age students to complete the online evaluation form after viewing Webinar 3.

Note that after viewing all 3 webinars, students will have an opportunity to request a package of materials from PACER with additional self-advocacy tools they can use when they complete the 3rd online evaluation form.

The entire playlist of PACER Center’s *Webinars for Transition-Age Students* is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1TUfOjdLFw&list=PLMe9zDtTPTVfSx-D_-O23pQpLRBTws0vQ>

We hope this guide has helped you and your transition-age students discover valuable resources for their individual journeys to adulthood. Thank you for the work you do to support self-determined futures for young adults with disabilities.

*PACER Center enhances the quality of life and expands opportunities for children, youth, and young adults with all disabilities and their families so each person can reach his or her highest potential.*

<https://www.pacer.org/>

<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/>

<https://www.pacer.org/transition/>



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