

EXTRA YEAR OPTION for Students with Disabilities Aging Out in 2021



The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has informed all school divisions about available funding which will let **some** special education students that are aging out of high school attend school for an additional year. Each school division must create processes and plans for this program called a **Post-Secondary Advancement Plan (PSAP)**. VDOE only makes recommendations, not requirements for this program.

Will My Child's IEP continue under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?

No! IDEA only allows students to attend school through the age of 22. If your child is found eligible for an extra year of school, a PSAP will be created for your student. This is **not** an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), an Individual Service Plan (ISP), or COVID recovery services. Your student might be eligible for COVID recovery services outside of this program, so be sure you and your school team come up with the best solution for your student.

What about IDEA rights protections?

Since this is not a program under IDEA:

- ✓ **State and federal regulations** do not apply.
- ✓ Schools do not have to provide a **free appropriate public education (FAPE)**.
- ✓ **Dispute resolution** services will not be available.
- ✓ **Prior Written Notice** is not required.

Who is eligible for consideration for this extra year?

Only a student with a disability that receives special education and related services who:

- ✓ reached age 22 after September 30, 2020; and
- ✓ is scheduled to complete high school in the spring 2021.

If a student meets the eligibility requirements above, then the school-based team will determine if this student is going to receive a Post-Secondary Advancement Plan.

What is in a PSAP?

- ✓ **Student identifiers** (name, age, grade, etc.).
- ✓ **Date** that parents and student were notified of the meeting.
- ✓ **Name** of the PSAP manager.
- ✓ **Student's vision** for future, strengths, and individual needs.
- ✓ **Summary** of academic and behavioral achievement, functional performance, accommodations.
- ✓ **Recommendations** for attaining post-secondary goals.
- ✓ **Frequency, location, and duration** of services – including related services and accommodations.
- ✓ **Description and summary** of the decision for the PSAP provisions and supports.

What should the school be doing?

- ✓ Identifying students who might be eligible.
- ✓ Communicating that information to the student and/or parents.
- ✓ Considering who needs to be on the team to develop the PSAP.
- ✓ Informing the parents, student, and outside agencies of a meeting.
- ✓ Developing the PSAP with the team.
- ✓ Deciding with the team who will be responsible for providing services and supports.

What should I do?

- ✓ Contact your IEP Team or your School Principal in writing. A sample email is provided below.
- ✓ Before you meet with the school team, gather documentation to show that your child meets one or more of the criteria listed under *Who is Eligible for Consideration* on the VDOE's document. [Superintendent's Memo #124-21 \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- ✓ Ask to see your school division's policies and procedures on this program.

Sample Email

Good morning, XXXXXX.

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out and ask about XXXXX County Public Schools' policies and procedures to implement the guidance provided to VDOE by the General Assembly regarding students aging out of special education being provided an additional year of education.

It is clear XXXXXX is eligible for consideration given the following (*choose those which apply and see VDOE Memo for more information*)

- She is a student earning an Applied Studies Diploma
- She is a student with continued literacy, communication, and functional skill needs.
- She is a student with emerging or breakthrough skills who needs continued instruction to generalize the skills and achieve post-secondary goals.
- She is a student who hasn't been able to participate in or complete transition activities (like work-based learning, pre-employment transition services, vocational assessment and other services that will prepare her for a post high-school world.)

I request XXXXXX be considered and found eligible for a Post-Secondary Advancement Plan. I am available on these dates and times: XXXXXX. Please let me know when you are available to meet.

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