It’s never too early to prepare for graduation

Graduation! It’s an exciting time and it’s never too early to plan and prepare. One of the most important decisions, to be made as early as possible, is what kind of diploma your student will be receiving. In Virginia, there is the Standard Diploma, the Advanced Studies Diploma, and the Applied Studies Diploma. The Standard and Advanced Studies Diploma are the diplomas that will allow your student to attend a two or four-year college or university as well as certain trade schools or other post-high school training options. The Applied Studies Diploma is for a small number of students who have significant cognitive disabilities and have not participated in the Standards of Learning (SOL) curriculum track. An Applied Studies Diploma is the right choice for some students but it can have significant implications for the student’s future, including employment opportunities. This is a great time to review the diploma options for your student, ensure that they are on the right track and that you are working together to plan their post-graduation future!

Helpful PEATC Resources

Factsheets in English:
- Applied Studies Diploma for Students with Disabilities
- Graduation Requirements for a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma
- Profile of a Virginia Graduate
- Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Factsheets in Spanish:
- Applied Studies Diploma for Students with Disabilities
- Graduation Requirements for a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma
- Profile of the Virginia Graduate
- Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Check out additional PEATC resources here
PEATC Transition Happenings

**YET Council Meeting**
December 12th | 6:00 pm

This group empowers Virginia students with disabilities, ages 14-22, as they begin their transition from High School to Adulthood. Meetings are held on Zoom every 2nd Monday of the month.
For more information, contact Kendra Wormley at kwormley@peatc.org.

**Sexual Health and Wellness Workshop for Parents of Students with IDD**
December 13th and 14th | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

You’re not alone if you find it uncomfortable to talk about sexuality and puberty with your child. Most parents do. However, being comfortable talking about this with your child is so important, as these conversations are critical to your child’s health and safety. This workshop is for Virginia parents, guardians, and family members of youth with disabilities along with educators and professionals. [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Youth Sexual Health and Wellness Sessions**
January 5th, 12th, 19th | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

This 3-part series is designed specifically for Virginia youth with disabilities. The trainings are designed to increase an individual’s capacity for self-advocacy and decision-making. These 3 sessions will cover important topics including consent and body rights when it comes to safe and healthy boundaries, pregnancy and human reproduction and birth control, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). [REGISTER HERE](#)

**WAZE to Adulthood Student Training – Preparing for Adulthood**
January 26th | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Turning 18 is a big deal! It also comes with responsibilities, changes, and choices to make. This live zoom training for students will focus on learning ways to use self-advocacy skills while planning for adulthood. [REGISTER HERE](#)

**Transition University**
February 13th - April 4th

Please join us for this FREE 5-week SELF-PACED online course that focuses on providing parent-friendly information to help make the transition for students with disabilities planning easier. This course is designed for parents/caregivers of elementary, middle, or high school students that receive special education services, but is open to everyone. The goal is to share factual information on transition services and to help make the transition from school services to the adult services world less confusing and more effective. [REGISTER HERE](#)

See our full event calendar [here](#)!
Other Happenings

Social and Life Skills Apps Webinar
December 16th

Many kids and adults struggle with social and life skills. During this session, there will be a demonstration of apps that can help with these skills. The apps’ focus areas will include personal grooming, household chores, telling time, dialing 911, social skills, and more.

REGISTER HERE

Social Security Disability, a free workshop from the Social Security Administration
January 18th

Attend this two-hour virtual workshop to learn everything you want to know about applying for and receiving Social Security disability benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

REGISTER HERE

Know of other transition to adulthood related happenings? We would love for you to share those with us at PEATC here.

Check this out!

Wellness Matters is an all-inclusive group striving to build strong relationships through wellness activities organized by Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation. This program provides adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn and participate in different recreational activities. Check out page 8 of this guide.