



**WAZE TO
ADULTHOOD**

May 2023

Planning for YOUR Future

PEATC's Transition to Adulthood Newsletter

Transition Planning for Foster, Kinship, and Adoptive Families

May is National Foster Awareness Month! There are approximately 440,000 children in foster care across the United States (Adoption and Foster Care Analysis Report, August 2018 AFCARS) and 4,800 children in foster care in Virginia (VDSS). Nationally between 30-40% of children in foster care have disabilities. For youth with disabilities who are in foster, kinship, and adoptive families, planning for the future is very important. Future planning may involve many different people who are involved in the lives of youth with disabilities. That planning can address care, education, employment, housing, and other areas related to transition to adulthood. There are specialized programs and funding streams that can help!

Helpful PEATC Resources

Factsheets in English:

- [Being Involved in Person-Centered Planning for Students and Young Adults with Disabilities in Foster, Kinship, or Adoptive Families](#)
- [IEP Transition Planning in Virginia Tips to Know for Youth with IEPs Who Are In Foster Care](#)
- [Transition Planning for Youth in Foster Care - Youth Factsheet](#)

Factsheets in Spanish:

- [Being Involved in Person-Centered Planning for Students and Young Adults with Disabilities in Foster, Kinship, or Adoptive Families](#)
- [Transition Planning for Youth in Foster Care - Youth Factsheet](#)

Additional Resources

- [Formed Families Forward](#)
- [Virginia Department of Social Services-Foster Care](#)
- [Virginia Department of Education - Enrollment of Students in Foster Care](#)

Check out additional PEATC resources [here](#)

PEATC Transition Happenings

YET Council Meeting May 8th | 6:00 pm



Do you know of a youth aged 14-22 that is a good self-advocate or wants to learn self-advocacy skills? The YET Council is looking for new youth council members to join in on conversations! The Youth Empowerment Transition (YET) Council is a group that empowers Virginia students with disabilities, ages 14-22, as they begin their transition from High School to Adulthood with monthly discussions about empowering themselves and increasing their self-advocacy.

Meetings are held on Zoom every 2nd Monday of the month. If you know of a youth who would be interested in joining the YET Council, contact Kendra Wormley at kwormley@peatc.org for more information.

Successful Transition Planning and the IEP May 2nd | 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

This workshop will encourage active participation in developing a meaningful and useful transition plan to help in preparing for life as an adult when students finish school. Attendees will learn what needs to be in the transition plan and what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says about transition services. A transition plan is part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for Virginia students age 14 and older. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Transition University June 5th - August 4th



Please join us for this FREE 5-week SELF-PACED online course that focuses on providing parent-friendly information to help make planning easier for the transition for students with disabilities. 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](#)

Other Happenings

Developing Workplace Readiness Skills May 11th | 11:00 am

Workplace readiness skills are also known as soft skills or job etiquette. Required workplace readiness skills vary by job, but some common examples are understanding and following instructions, time management, problem-solving, and understanding and engaging in appropriate workplace relationships. These skills are imperative to getting the job and keeping it.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Career Café: Chatting with Employers

May 18th | 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Join DARS as they chat with employers in Virginia to learn about careers that are offered in State, Local, and Federal Government sectors. [REGISTER HERE](#)

George Mason Gaming Institute

May 23rd | 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Join the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired (DBVI) and George Mason for a virtual tour and information on careers in gaming. Start with your interest (art, music, coding, sales) and find out how it can be put into action in the gaming industry. For more information contact Tish Harris at Tish.Harris@DBVI.Virginia.gov or Felicia Williams at Felicia.Williams@DBVI.Virginia.gov

Check this out!

Get Ready for College - This self-paced course is for students, grades 8 and higher who are interested in attending college and want to learn more about the skills and knowledge necessary for college success. Family members are welcome to take the course as well to gain information to successfully navigate the college preparation, selection, and disability services process. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#).

SAVE THE DATE! **The Arc of Virginia's 2023 Statewide Convention** will take place on July 31st – August 2, 2023, at the Omni Hotel in Richmond, VA.

Tech Camp - This summer, The Arc of Northern Virginia will feature their Tech Camp for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The purpose of Tech Camp will be to provide direct access to, and training on, our suite of online independent living lessons. By hosting this training opportunity as a “summer camp” experience, the goal is for participants to have fun, socialize, and make friends while using and learning technology to become more independent.

- Session #1 – July 17th – 20th, 2023
- Session #2 – August 7th – 10th, 2023

For more information and to register, [CLICK HERE](#)

DBVI (Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired) Tiered IT Cohort - Whether you are interested in an IT field or will just use technology in the workplace, this training is valuable. This training will begin with the fundamentals and then have the opportunity to move through more advanced training to further knowledge in cyber security. For more information contact Tish Harris at Tish.Harris@DBVI.Virginia.gov or Felicia Williams at Felicia.Williams@DBVI.Virginia.gov

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