# **State Services for the Blind**

# **Junior Year Transition Timeline**

## Please read the Freshman and Sophomore Year Transition Timelines if you haven’t already. This timeline builds on previous years and expands on specific areas. Contact SSB and your IEP team to engage in any activities or training listed below.

## Junior Year Activities:

* Actively participate in IEP transition planning, Attend and engage in your IEP meeting to discuss goals, progress, and next steps. Invite your SSB counselor and other transition team members to ensure your post-high school plan is comprehensive and supported.
* Explore your interests and skills as they relate to careers:
  + Work with your IEP and SSB to identify careers that align with your knowledge, abilities, and strengths.
  + Meet with your SSB contacts regularly to set career goals and create an actionable plan to achieve them.
  + Conduct informational interviews with professionals in fields that interest you to gain insights into career paths, necessary skills, and daily tasks.
  + Engage in job shadowing or volunteer work to gain practical experience and learn about workplace expectations.
* Develop key personal skills. Focus on time management, study techniques, assertiveness, and stress management—all valuable for academic and personal growth.
* Advocate for yourself: Practice explaining your disability and accommodation needs, as not everyone will understand unless you communicate them clearly.
* Plan for your senior year with your guidance counselor. Review class requirements and graduation milestones and ensure you’re on track to meet your goals.
* Enhance your orientation and mobility skills. Prepare for new environments by practicing skills for navigating different places you may encounter after high school.
* Assistive Technology Training:
  + If you haven't already, schedule an assistive technology assessment with SSB and train on the tools you plan to use post-graduation.
  + Test different technologies through loaner libraries to determine what works best for you.
* Master tools for reading, writing, and research. Continue practicing with screen readers, refreshable Braille displays, and magnification software for academic tasks.
* Practice self-advocacy for accommodations. Take a proactive role in communicating with teachers, counselors, and others about your needs and accommodations.

## Additional Activities for Prospective College Students

* Identify accommodations currently used and begin adapting these for a college or work environment. Create a comprehensive list of the academic and personal accommodations you currently use that may be needed in college.
* Discuss college planning with your guidance counselor. Attend any college events at your high school and talk to your counselor about preparing for college applications.
* Explore scholarship opportunities by reaching out to financial aid offices, your guidance counselor, and SSB.
* Start college applications. Obtain application forms, inquire about admissions procedures and timelines, and gather information on financial aid.
* Develop research skills. Practice searching, filtering, and organizing online resources using accessible databases and citation tools.
* Connect with SSB for college preparation support. Meet with your SSB counselor or a work opportunities navigator to discuss how SSB can support your college preparation, including:
  + Exploring career goals and determining if a college degree is necessary for your career path.
  + Campus tours to get familiar with different environments.
  + Connecting with disability services on campus to understand available support.
  + Meet with faculty or students in programs of interest to learn more about specific fields.
  + Guidance for completing applications, including help with FAFSA.
* Ensure all graduation and IEP goals align with your chosen post-high school path (e.g., college, vocational training, or direct entry into the workforce).

## Final Tips

* Build confidence through practice: Take every opportunity to practice new skills, whether self-advocacy, time management, or job shadowing.
* Celebrate small achievements: Recognize progress in each step—small accomplishments now build the foundation for a successful transition to college or work.
* Stay adaptable: Technology and career resources continue to evolve, so stay open to learning new tools and methods.