

# Options after High School for Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs should start planning early for life after high school. There are many options, including college, vocational school or finding a job. Adult services can be very different from student services. Planning early can help students handle the challenges of becoming an adult.

Talk to the school guidance counselor, transition coordinator, your doctor, and your social worker – they can all help students prepare for life after high school. These offices can also help:

- **Advocates for Children of New York** ([AdvocatesForChildren.org](http://AdvocatesForChildren.org))  
(866) 427-6033
- **Chinese American Planning Council Community Services** ([cpc-nyc.org](http://cpc-nyc.org))
  - Brooklyn: (718) 492-0409
  - Manhattan: (212) 941-0030
  - Queens: (718) 358-8899
- **INCLUDEnyc** ([includenyc.org](http://includenyc.org))  
(212) 677-4660 (English)



## Prepare to Graduate From High School

- Attend the student's **IEP** meetings (students can attend with parents starting at age 15). These meetings help parents learn what school or job options may be best for their child after high school. Parents and students will discuss with teachers a step-by-step plan ("transition plan") to help students work towards their goals. For example, if your child wants to become a nurse, the school can help her plan for the necessary college programs and internships.
- Find out what kind of diploma your child will be receiving.
- Talk to the school's transition coordinator, who can refer students to support services.
- Receive a Student Exit Summary in the last year of high school.

## For Students That May Be Ready for College

Talk to the guidance counselor about college options. Start planning for applications in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Visit colleges. Every college has an office for students with disabilities where you can learn about how to get accommodations. Students with disabilities may also be able to take college classes without being enrolled in a degree program.

## For Students That May Be Ready to Start Working

- **ACCES-VR** helps people with disabilities prepare job applications, find financial aid or can help pay for college or job training. To apply, talk to the transition coordinator 1-2 years before graduation.
- **Learning to Work** career classes are offered to students in some Transfer Schools and Young Adult Borough Centers.
- **Cooperative Technology High School** ([co-optech.org](http://co-optech.org)) offers students training in skills like web design and medical billing. Talk to the school guidance counselor about applying.
- **Job Corps** helps youth earn their diploma and find a job. Visit [jobcorps.gov](http://jobcorps.gov) or call (800) 733-5627 to learn more.

## For Students That May Need More Support

**NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)** ([opwdd.ny.gov](http://opwdd.ny.gov)) can help adults who may benefit from adult day programs, counseling, and housing support. Talk to the student's Medicaid Service Coordinator to learn more.

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CHARLES B. WANG  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER  
王嘉廉社區醫療中心

**General Info Line** (212) 226-8339

**Website** [www.cbwchc.org](http://www.cbwchc.org)

**268 Canal Street, New York, NY 10013**

Internal Medicine (212) 379-6998

Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN) (212) 966-0228

**125 Walker Street, 2/F, New York, NY 10013**

Pediatrics (212) 226-3888

Teen Resource Center (TRC) (212) 226-2044

Dental (212) 226-9339

**136-26 37th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354**

Internal Medicine (718) 886-1200

Obstetrics & Gynecology (OB/GYN) (718) 886-1287

Pediatrics (718) 886-1222

**137-43 45th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355**

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology, and Family Medicine

(929) 362-3006

**Health Education Department** (212) 966-0461

**Social Work Department**

Manhattan (212) 226-1661

Queens (718) 886-1212

**Need Health Insurance? We Can Help!**

Manhattan (212) 226-8339

Queens (718) 886-7355