

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL Agency Connections**

### **Description**

The agency connections are part of state and federal law and the Texas State Performance Plan.

*Federal Law §300.320(b)*

*b) Transition services.*

*Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team, ...*

### **Texas State Performance Plan; Indicator 13**

Item #12. With the consent of parents or adult student, any agency responsible for providing transition services is invited to the ARD/IEP meeting.

### **Texas State Performance Plan: Indicator 14**

Post-school success is dependent upon the appropriate and effective completion of transition services. The linkages to agencies and community supports provide the “sustainability” component to the long-term effectiveness of transition services.

### **IEP Documentation of the Agency Connections**

- It is the responsibility of the district to ensure parents of elementary-age students with low incidence disabilities, where appropriate, are provided information regarding agency connections.
- The documentation of agency information provided to the parent or if an invitation is extended to an agency/community service to attend the student’s ARD/IEP meeting should be documented in the IEP Deliberations.
- No agency/community service is to be invited to the ARD/IEP Meeting, without parent permission.

### **Which agency should be considered?**

To answer this question, the teacher and/or district transition services representative should review student information. What is the student’s disability and what are his/her needs? What are the needs of the parent/guardian to help their child with a disability? The following are potential agency and community supports for transition and elementary age children:

- MH/IDD
- Social Security Disability
- Independent Living Centers
- Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)
- Commission for the Blind
- Commission for the Deaf
- Health Services
- Residential Providers
- Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
- Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Texas
- Medicaid Waiver Program
- World Relief
- Tx State School for the Deaf
- Tx State School for the Blind
- Easter Seals
- Catholic Charities
- United Way

Which agencies provide needed social services?

Service Description	Agencies
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARS (short-term)</li> <li>• MH/IDD (long-term)</li> <li>• Texas Workforce Commission</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Day Habilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH/IDD</li> <li>• CLASS (DADS Waiver Program Funds)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Child/Adult Day Programs (must have a medical diagnosis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DADS</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DARS</li> <li>• MHMR</li> <li>• TWC (Career Exploration and Planning)</li> <li>• Texas Commission for the Blind</li> <li>• Texas Commission for the Deaf</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Childcare Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Workforce Commission</li> <li>• United Way</li> <li>• The Arc (Child Care Program and Children's Case Management)</li> <li>• Early Childhood Intervention</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Texas Commission for the Blind</li> <li>• Texas Commission for the Deaf</li> <li>• DARS</li> <li>• MHMR</li> <li>• Goodwill Industries</li> <li>• Dress for Success</li> <li>• Easter Seals</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Medical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shriner's Hospital</li> <li>• Women's, Infant, and Children (WIC)</li> <li>• IHFS (In-Home Family Support)</li> <li>• MHMR (HCS, Texas Medicaid Waiver, etc.)</li> <li>• CARE Link</li> <li>• DARS (if related to employment)</li> <li>• Social Security/Medicaid</li> <li>• DADS (CBA)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Arc</li> <li>• MH/IDD (ICF-MR and HCS)</li> <li>• Volunteers of America (Section 8 Apartments)</li> <li>• Community Development Corp. (CDC)</li> <li>• Local Ministries</li> <li>• Deaf-Blind Program</li> <li>• Supported Apartment Living Programs</li> <li>• Catholic Charities</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women’s, Infant, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Food Program</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Service Description</b>	<b>Agencies</b>
Financial Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security Administration</li> <li>• DARS (employment, books, tuition)</li> <li>• MH/IDD (respite, adaptive equipment, home modifications, etc.)</li> <li>• Center for Independent Living Services</li> <li>• Catholic Charities (Financial Management, Payee Status)</li> <li>• Easter Seals</li> <li>• Medicaid Waiver Funds (DADS)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Arc</li> <li>• Special Olympics</li> <li>• Parks and Recreation</li> <li>• Camps</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public transportation</li> <li>• Medicaid Transportation (medical transport)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

### Information Sampling

The types of information collected by many agencies include but are not limited to:

- Type of disability (most recent psychological evaluation to include IQ results)
- Proof of all medical disabilities
- Ethnicity, gender, age
- Marital status
- Status of medical Insurance
- Employment status and description of occupation
- Wages / income / Social Security
- Number of hours worked
- Education: high school, college, GED
- Proof of residency

### Denial of Agency Services

If a client is dissatisfied with the decision or action regarding the student’s eligibility for agency services, the student or parent representative may request an administrative review by contacting the area manager for the agency or request a hearing in writing. Typically, this must be done within 30-45 days, depending on the agency.

Tell parents to make a copy of all forms submitted. Sometimes agencies lose paperwork. Having a second copy is always an advantage.