



West Virginia University®

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISABILITIES
PATHS FOR PARENTS PROGRAM

POCKET GUIDE

Educational and Medical Pathways





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– Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran. 7/17 Paths For Parents Pocket Guide



POCKET GUIDE

Educational and Medical Pathways

This guide was created by Parent Network Specialists, who are West Virginia parents with experience navigating the systems of care for their own children with special health care needs.

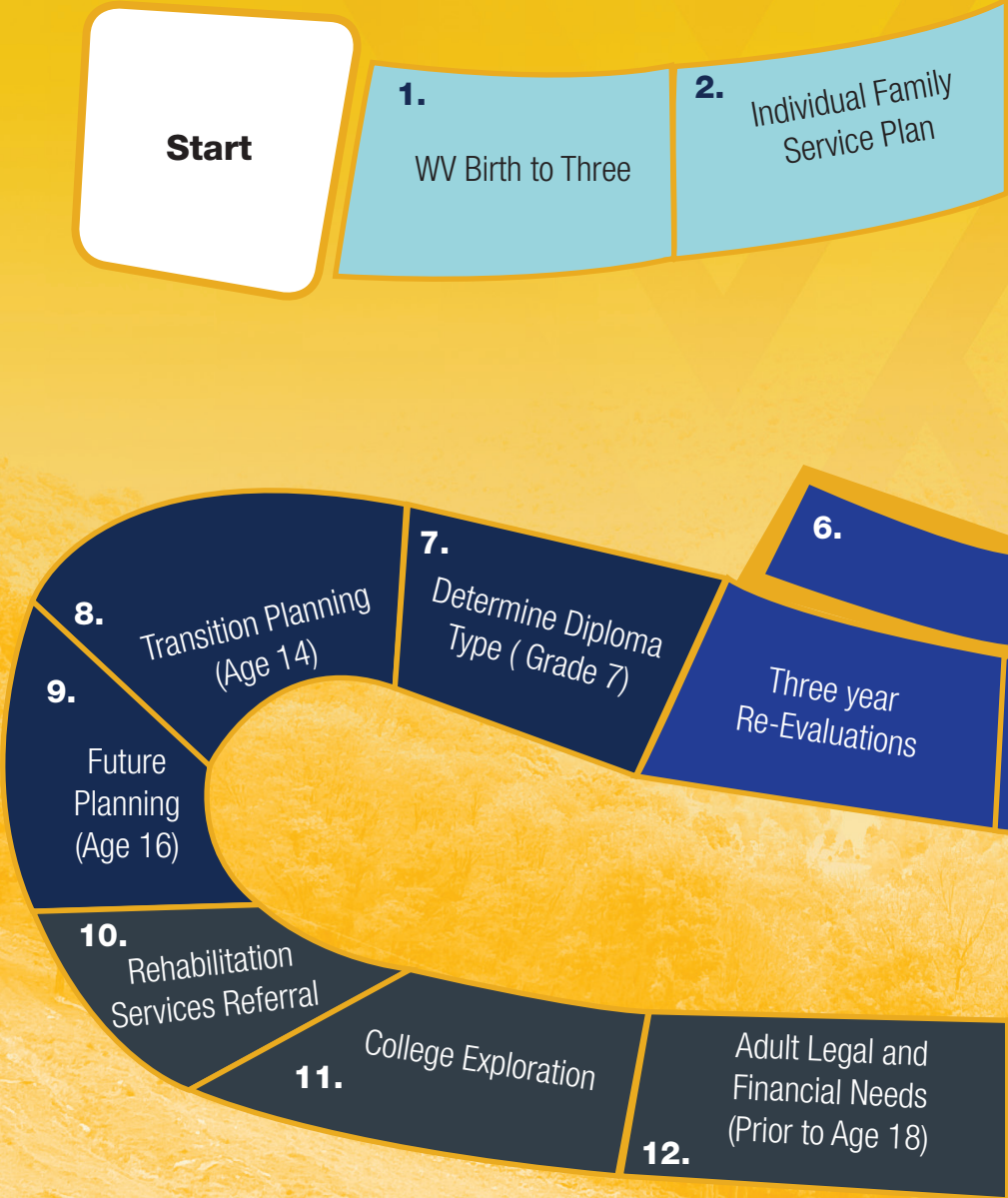
Just as each child is unique, each family's journey through the medical and educational system is different. In this guide, we try to give a general idea of what parents can expect.

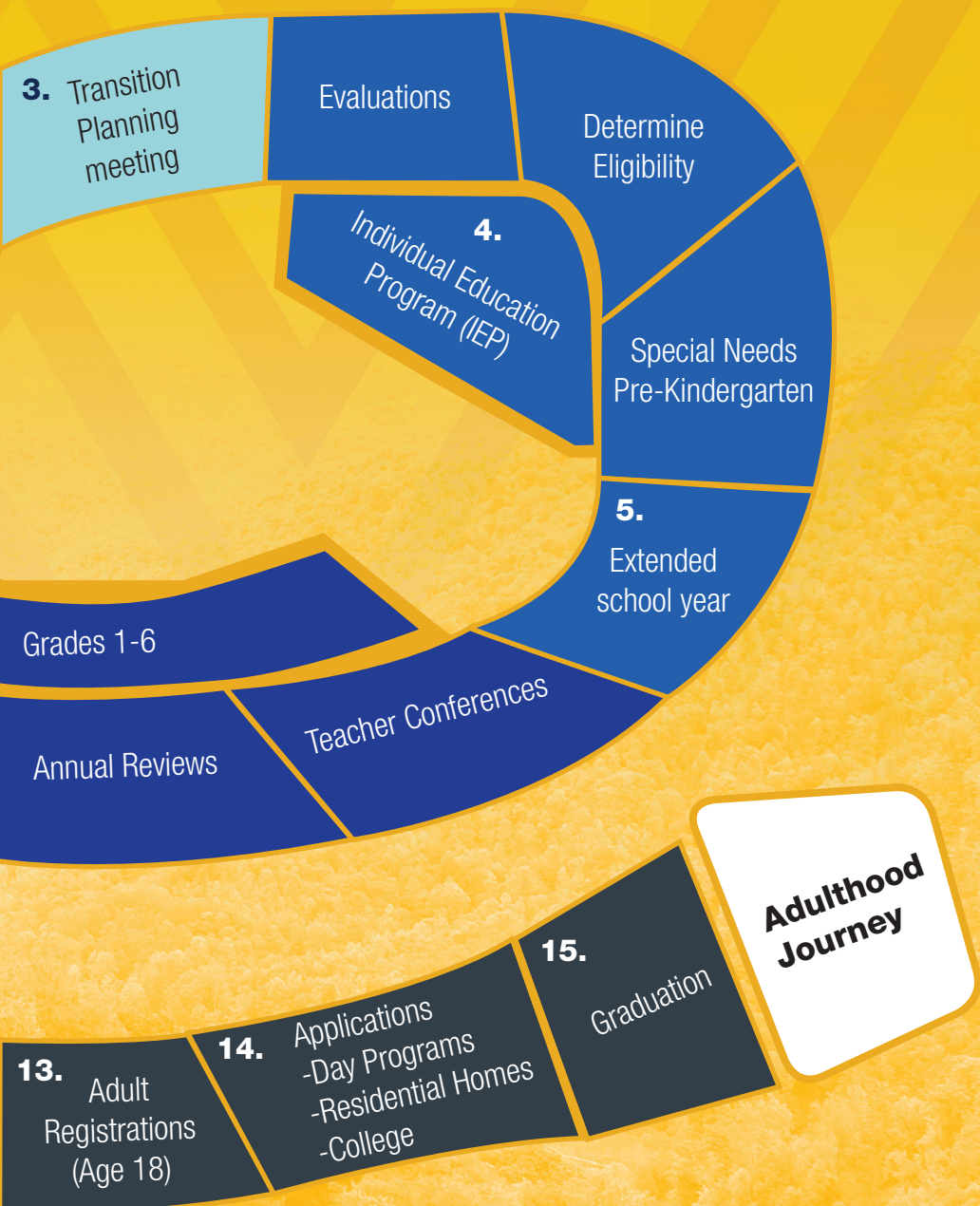
We encourage you to contact the Parent Network Specialists in the Paths for Parents Program at the West Virginia University Center for Excellence in Disabilities (WVU CED) if you have questions or visit the website to find the Parent Network Specialist in your area.

Phone: **304-293-4692**

Website: **pns.cedwvu.org**

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY





Paths For Parents

1. WV Birth to Three

Provides early intervention services to children age three and under who exhibit a developmental, physical, cognitive or social delay, or who may be at risk of delays.

2. Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

A plan developed by a professional team and the child's family for special services to children with developmental delays under age three. Once a child turns three, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is developed if special education services are deemed necessary.

3. Transition planning meeting

All children who receive Birth to Three (BTT) services are referred to their local school district to be evaluated for special education services. If you choose, your BTT service coordinator will schedule a transition planning meeting at your child's home school at least 90 days prior to your child's third birthday. Service and educational needs are discussed and consent for your child to be evaluated will be signed.

4. Individualized Education Program (IEP)

A written plan, typically covering a 12-month period, that is developed, reviewed and revised in accordance with West Virginia Department of Education Policy 2419. The plan describes the services, modifications and adaptations that the school is responsible for providing to your child.

Evaluations

Once the school district receives the consent to evaluate form, evaluations to determine eligibility for special education and related services such as physical, occupational or speech therapy must be completed.

Determine eligibility

After evaluations are completed, the Eligibility Committee (EC), which includes the parents and a team of qualified professionals, must meet within 80 school days to determine eligibility. You are allowed to invite someone to come and help you make decisions including a family member, friend or professional advocate.

Special needs pre-kindergarten

A special education program designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities, or those who are experiencing developmental delays. Services for preschool children (ages 3 through 5) are provided free of charge.

5. Extended School Year (ESY)

Your child may be eligible for special education and related services beyond the normal school year, typically in the summer, in accordance with the student's IEP. This should be discussed at the annual IEP meeting.

6. Grades one through six

These years include teacher conferences, annual reviews and IEP meetings. A re-evaluation is required every three years to determine if your child continues to require special education services. These may be done with or without testing. The IEP team, which you are part of, will make that decision.

7. Determine diploma type (grade seven)

It is time consider the type of diploma your child will obtain:

Modified diploma: Students identified by the IEP team to be unable, even with extended learning opportunities and significant instructional modifications, to meet state and county standard graduation requirements may receive a modified diploma. Most universities and the U.S. military do not accept a modified diploma. Students receiving a modified diploma are allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies with their classmates and continue with special education services through age 21.

Standard diploma: The standard diploma is a formal documentation and recognition that a student has satisfactorily completed both state and county school district graduation requirements. This type of diploma is accepted by community colleges, universities and by the U.S. military.

Paths For Parents

8. Transition planning (age 14)

At this age, your child should attend IEP meetings, have a voice in their educational plan and participate in exploring options for life after graduation. The IEP team will consider your child's strengths and preferences as they seek opportunities to begin skill building in interest areas.

9. Future planning (age 16)

When your child turns 16 years old, the IEP should include appropriate goals that are related to his or her future after high school, to include education, independent living and employment. Assessments should be conducted prior to the IEP to establish the current skill level of the student.

10. Rehabilitation services referral

WV Division of Rehabilitation Services (WV DRS) helps people with disabilities establish and reach their vocational goals. The goal for all DRS clients is to become productive working citizens. The vocational rehabilitation process should begin at least two years prior to high school graduation. They can help guide your child with his or her college or employment goals.

11. College exploration

Explore colleges if this is your child's educational goal and plan for college entrance exams and college application processes.

12. Adult legal and financial needs (prior to age 18)

Any legal issues related to adulthood should be addressed based on your child's ability to make his/her own decisions and give consent. There are many options to consider when seeking to provide help to your child in decision-making. Attorney assistance may be needed. The student should be informed of any pending transfer of rights, and a statement of consent should be included in the IEP. A parent may continue to attend and participate in IEP meetings as a person the student selects to assist him or her through the process.

According to the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program, a child becomes an adult at age 18 and different rules apply when determining eligibility. Contact Social Security to learn more.

13. Adult registrations (age 18)

All 18 year old men are required to register with the Selective Service System, regardless their level of functioning. Selective Service allows for a friend or relative to help a man with disabilities to fill out the registration form if he is unable to do it himself.

At age 18, all women and men may register to vote.

14. Applications

If appropriate, individuals should apply to adult agencies for vocational, day programs and supported living. If necessary, apply for residential placement waiting lists as the application process can be long and involved. Those who plan to attend college, should begin the college application process between their junior and senior years of high school.

15. Graduation

Graduate from high school and plan for adulthood journey

If modified diploma was awarded and the individual attended school until the age 21, special education programs are terminated once the student fulfills their IEP goals or when they turn 21 years old.

Adulthood journey

Your child will begin an adult journey to pursue additional learning goals. Professionals and parents should support and encourage young adults as they take a more active role in their long-term educational, vocational and independent living skills goals.

MEDICAL PATHWAY

Baby on the Way

1.

WIC

2.

Right From the Start

3.

Birth
(Apgar Score)

9.

Dental Referral
(Age 1 or first tooth)

8.

Individual Family
Service Plan

10.

Transition
Planning
Meeting

11.

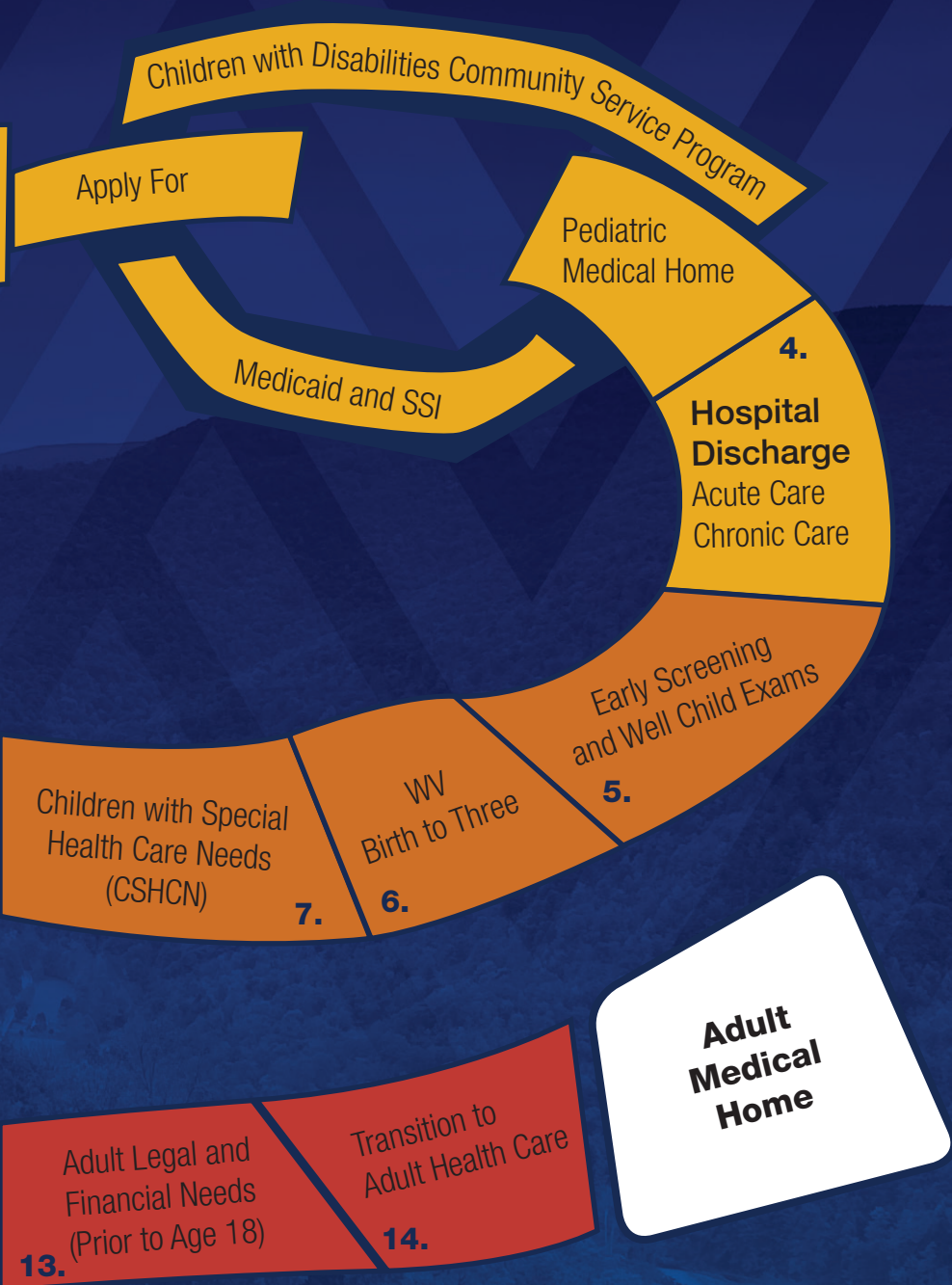
Apply for
WV I/DD
Waiver
(Age 3)

CSHCN
*If not enrolled

Oral Check-ups
(every 6 months)
Well Child Exams
(Every year)

12.

Explore Healthcare
Transition (Age 14)



Paths For Parents

1. Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program

Provides nutrition counseling and education, breastfeeding support, health screening, medical and social service referrals, and food packages for pregnant, breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, infants and children up to age five.

2. Right From the Start

Helps mothers and their babies lead healthier lives by offering home visitation services with a designated care coordinator. Provides pregnancy medical coverage if eligible.

3. Birth- Apgar score

Apgar is a test performed on a baby at one and five minutes after birth. The one-minute score determines how well the baby tolerated the birthing process. The five minute score indicates how well the baby is doing outside the mother's womb.

Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program that assists low income families/individuals in paying for medical and custodial care costs. Apply through WV Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR).

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

May provide benefits to low-income people with a disability. Apply early through Social Security.

Children with Disabilities Community Service Program (CDCSP)

Provides Medicaid benefits to children with severe disabilities who do not meet Medicaid's financial eligibility requirements but require the level of care provided in a medical institution.

Pediatric Medical Home

Your pediatric primary care physician (PCP) is a doctor that leads the pediatric medical home and handles your child's overall health. Your PCP will refer you to specialty physicians if needed. Your pediatric medical home will consist of any person who has responsibility for your child's health care needs.

4. Discharge from hospital: Acute care

An acute illness or injury is a medical problem that comes on quickly but is treatable and will eventually go away. A baby with this type of diagnosis may require monitoring following discharge.

Discharge from hospital: Chronic care (not acute)

The term chronic is applied when the course of the disease lasts for more than three months. A baby with this type of diagnosis may be referred to a specialist(s) and will require on-going care.

5. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and annual well child exams

Federal regulations state that children under age 21 who receive Medicaid are entitled to EPSDT benefits that cover preventive and treatment services. Pediatricians recommend infants be seen at two weeks of age, followed by approximately 10 other pediatric visits until the age of three. It is recommended that children be seen yearly after age three.

6. WV Birth to Three

Provides early intervention services to children age three and under who exhibit a developmental, physical, cognitive or social delay, or may be at risk of delays.

7. Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) program

The CSHCN program provides assistance and care coordination to families who have children with illnesses that need special care from age birth to 21 years. Apply at WV DHHR.

8. Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)

A plan developed by a team of interventionists and the child's family for special services to young children with developmental delays. An IFSP only applies to children from birth to three years of age. Once a child turns three years old, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is put into place if special education services are deemed necessary.

9. Dental Referral (Age 1 or first tooth)

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that a child be examined by a dentist at age one or within six months after the first tooth appears. Regular visits should continue every six months into adulthood.

10. Transition planning meeting

All children who receive Birth to Three (BTT) services are referred to their local school district to be evaluated for special education services. If you choose, your BTT service coordinator will schedule a transition planning meeting at your child's home school at least 90 days prior to your child's third birthday. Service and educational needs are discussed and evaluations will begin. Based upon evaluation results, your child may be eligible for special education services, the development of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and your child may begin pre-school.

11. Apply for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Waiver - age 3

Your child may be eligible for medical and financial services. Apply early through WV DHHR, as the determination process and waiting list is long.

12. Explore health care transition-age 14

Begin considering transfer of your child's health care from pediatrics to adult care. Begin researching and receiving recommendations of adult physicians and specialists to care for your child. Children should begin taking an active role in their medical services at this age.

13. Adult legal and financial needs (Prior to age 18)

An application for SSI should be made. In the SSI program, a child becomes an adult at age 18 and different rules apply when determining eligibility for adults. Contact Social Security to learn more.

You may also need to address legal issues related to adulthood based on your child's ability to make his/her own decisions and give consent. There are many options to consider when seeking to provide help to your child in decision-making. Attorney assistance may be needed.

14. Transition to adult health care services

Adult primary care physicians and specialists will begin caring for your child. Health providers and parents should support and encourage young adults as they take a more active role in their own healthcare.

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