

TOP 10 TRANSITION RESOURCES FOR COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS (and their teachers!)

*adapted and modified from the following websites

1. ACT Accommodations: www.act.org/aap/disab/

This site provides an introduction to how a high school student with a disability goes about seeking accommodations (extended time, reader, extra breaks, large print, etc.) for the ACT. Note, ACT has very specific documentation guidelines. Read through these guidelines to make sure the student's documentation meets the ACT requirements.

Back door hint – if the student is absolutely, positively determined to attend one of the local area colleges or universities, check with the institution first – the institution most likely will give the “ACT Residual” test, where the score is only valid at that school (“resides” at that institution, and does not transfer anywhere else). Seeking and receiving accommodations for ACT testing locally is a less time consuming process.

2. Missouri AHEAD College and University Guidebook: <http://www.stlcc.cc.mo.us/fv/moahead/index.html>

Missouri AHEAD (the Association of Higher Education and Disability) is the professional organization for college-level disability service providers. We have created, disseminated, and continually update a guidebook that covers virtually all of the 2-year and 4-year public and private colleges and universities in Missouri. The book is divided into two major sections: (1) the first section covers documentation, laws, transition, preparation, financial aid, and other resources, and; (2) college profiles. The college profile section provides a uniform description of each school and the accommodation services that are available.

3. Fundamentals of Transition: www.cise.missouri.edu/publications/funtrans/index.html

This handbook is a little dated, but the core information is well presented. It can be easily read and understood by teachers, parents, and students.

4. Creating Options: 2006 Financial Aid for Individuals with Disabilities: http://www.heath.gwu.edu/resources_paper.htm

This is the one-stop information source about financial aid options for students with disabilities. The paper walks through everything a prospective college student and his/her family needs to know about seeking and receiving financial aid. There is a listing of other sources of financial aid, a bibliography of reading materials, and a list of scholarship and financial aid resources beyond the Federal government.

5. Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic: www.rfbd.org

This is the national source of recorded materials for students with print-related disabilities. RFBD's catalog covers reading materials from early childhood through graduate school. The sooner students can become familiar with using audio materials, the better.

6. Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation: <http://vr.dese.mo.gov/>

Vocational Rehabilitation (known as “VR”), is a state agency that helps individuals with disabilities ultimately find employment. This could be a high school student who is ready to graduate and enter the work force or attend college or a trade school to learn job skills and ultimately find employment, or an adult who is injured in an accident or at the workplace, who wishes to return to a job that's less physically demanding. Once an individual is found eligible for services (must provide documentation of disability and the need for employment assistance), a VR counselor will assist that individual with forming a feasible, realistic, and appropriate vocational goal and plan. The plan could include job seeking assistance, training for a new job by attending a local school, equipment as deemed necessary for the case, and many other services. VR services are as individualized as the people seeking assistance. There are four local VR offices in the immediate area: Joplin, Nevada, and Springfield.

7. Independent Living Center: The Independent Living Center, Inc., 1001 E. 32nd Street, Joplin, MO 64804
(417) 659-8086 (voice/TTY), swhite@ilcenter.org
Contact Person: Stephanie White
Counties Served: Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, McDonald, Newton

Independent Living Centers are typically non-residential, private, non-profit, consumer-controlled, community-based organizations providing services and advocacy by and for persons with all types of disabilities. Their goal is to assist individuals with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential within their families and communities by assisting individuals with the right to thrive in least restrictive environments as possible. Also, Independent Living Centers serve as a strong advocacy voice on a wide range of national, state and local issues. They work to assure physical and programmatic access to housing, employment, personal assistants, durable medical equipment, transportation, communities, recreational facilities, and health and social services. These are just a few of the services offered. Like VR, services are very individualized based on the need and situation.

8. Missouri Protection & Advocacy, Client Assistance Program: www.moadvocacy.org/textver.htm

Commonly known as "Missouri P & A" and "MO CAP," this agency aims to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities by providing advocacy and legal services. MO P&A is a federally mandated system in the state of Missouri which provides protection of the rights of persons with disabilities through legally based advocacy. MO P&A was established in 1977 to address public outcry in response to the abuse, neglect and lack of programming in institutions for persons with disabilities. MO P&A is the only legal rights organization in Missouri exclusively for people with disabilities. Main office is located in Jefferson City, and is open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Telephone: 573-893-3333 or 1-800-392-8667, or MO Relay TDD 1-800-735-2966. Fax: 573-893-4231. Postal address: 925 S. Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

9. Missouri Career Center: http://www.greathires.org/cgi-bin/career_centers.cgi.

Missouri Career Centers are "one-stop shops" for all employment and training needs. The workforce development system is a partnership of federal, state and local services, all under one roof. Employers, job seekers and those with special needs can visit any one of our Missouri Career Centers throughout the state and receive seamless and comprehensive services. Located in many communities across the state, Missouri Career Centers represent a unique partnership of employment and training organizations that reflect the specific needs in each local community. Workers, employers, students and those looking for a first job or returning to the workforce will find a resource area in each Missouri Career Center. These resource areas are equipped with computers, fax machines and telephones that operate similarly to a public library. There are additional sites where Missourians can access workforce services. In the immediate area, there are centers located in Joplin, Nevada, and Springfield.

10. Job Accommodation Network: www.jan.wvu.edu

JAN is a free consulting service designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by: 1) providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, 2) providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and 3) educating callers about self-employment options. When perusing this website, you can find a plethora of information regarding reasonable accommodations at the worksite, how to request and negotiate accommodations with an employer, helpful hints on finding jobs, and an "A to Z" area by disability (located at <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/media/atoz.htm>). This A to Z area is helpful for fact sheets regarding specific disabilities, most successful accommodations by disability, and organizations that support specific types of disabilities.