

Resources for Special Populations

IN TEXAS

Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/index.shtml>

Texas DARS Local Offices and Contact Information

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/DRSoffices.asp>

Texas DARS Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dhhs/index.shtml>

Texas DARS Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/dbs/index.shtml>

Texas DARS Services for Persons with Physical and Mental Disabilities

<http://www.dars.state.tx.us/drs/index.shtml>

[Resource Guide on Higher Education for People with Disabilities:](http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/collegehtml.asp) The Texas Council on Developmental Disabilities offers various resources and documents on helping with transition services. <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/collegehtml.asp>

[The Next Step Higher Ed Video:](http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/NextStepVideo.asp) The 19-minute video, "*The Next Step*," presents personal stories of five Texans with disabilities who enrolled in colleges, universities or technical schools. <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/NextStepVideo.asp>

[A Resource Guide for Special Education Students on Transition Services:](http://www.transitionintexas.org/transitionintexas/site/default.asp) A website for Educators, Parents and Students who are in Special Education Services in Texas. <http://www.transitionintexas.org/transitionintexas/site/default.asp>

Texas Transition Resource Center: Partners Resource Network: Partners Resource Network was established as a non-profit agency in Texas in 1986 to assist families of children with all types of disabilities throughout the State. The website contains information for parents and students about the Transition process in Texas.
<http://www.partnerstx.org/TxTransition/index.htm>

[Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Special Education Division:](http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/) An A to Z listing of topics of interests to parents of children in Special Education. <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/>

[Texas Education Agency \(TEA\) Secondary Transition guidance:](http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/guidance/transition.html) An overview of Transition services in Texas by the Texas Education Agency. State, federal and legal resources are available. <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/special.ed/guidance/transition.html>

[AHEAD in Texas](http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/texas) (Association of Higher Education and Disability) The Association on Higher Education and Disability in Texas (AHEAD in Texas) is a non-profit, 501c3 association consisting primarily of disability service providers in higher education. Membership also includes others interested in disability-related issues such as vocational rehabilitation counselors from the various state agencies, parents, students, and advocates: <http://www.ahead.org/affiliates/texas>

[Project FIRST:](http://texasprojectfirst.org/AgePostGraduation.html) A listing of resources for families of State and Federal resources to help navigate the transition process Post-Graduation. (Family, Information, Resources, Support and Training) <http://texasprojectfirst.org/AgePostGraduation.html>

[Advocacy, Inc.](http://www.advocacyinc.org/education.cfm) is an advocacy organization that advocates for the protection and advancement of the legal, human and service rights of people with disabilities in Texas.
<http://www.advocacyinc.org/education.cfm>

[The ARC of Texas: *The Manual for Parents and Students About Special Education Services in Texas*](#): This 61-page manual is an invaluable resource for families trying to understand the Texas special education system. The August 2007 version of our Parent Manual, called "It's a New IDEA" The Manual for Parents and Students about Special Education Services in Texas is available in both English and Spanish online:

<http://www.thearcoftexas.org/resources/families/inclusionresources.asp#newidea>

DBTAC - Southwest ADA Center at ILRU [webcast on "Transitioning from High School to College - Facts, Myths and Tips for Students with Disabilities"](#) presented by Jean Ashmore.

Jean Ashmore, Director of Disability Support Services at Rice University in Houston, Texas will discuss issues of the process and issues of transition from high school to college for students with disabilities. <http://ilru.org/html/training/webcasts/archive/2009/08-14-DBTAC-JA.html>

[Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic: Southwest Region \(Texas\)](#): The Texas Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic makes written materials available by recordings of the printed word.

<http://www.rfbd.org/southwest/>

[Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: College - Financial Aid: Exemptions](#): Exemptions are a type of financial assistance allowing some Texas residents to attend a public college or university in Texas without paying tuition or, in some cases, tuition and fees. Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

[Students who are Deaf or Blind Program](#): The program is set up to help enable blind and deaf students to attend public colleges or universities in the state of Texas:

<http://www.hhloans.com/cfbintofa2.cfm?ID=547>

Additional Resources for Special Populations

Going To College

This new website contains information about living college life with a disability. It is designed for high school students. The site provides video clips, activities, and resources that can help them get a head start in planning for college. Video interviews with college students with disabilities offer a way to hear firsthand from students with disabilities who have been successful. Modules include activities that will help students explore more about themselves, learn what to expect from college, and equip them with important considerations and tasks to complete when planning for college. <http://www.going-to-college.org/>

Parent Tips For Transition Planning: A tip sheet explaining Parent Tips for Transition Planning from the PACER Center which is a [parent training and information center](#) for families of children and youth with all disabilities from birth through 21 years old. Located in Minneapolis, it serves families across the nation, as well as those in Minnesota. Parents can find publications, workshops, and other resources to help make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their children with disabilities.

Transition Parent Briefs: <http://www.pacer.org/publications/ncsetbriefs.asp>

Vcampus, The e-Learning Solution Provider! <http://www.vcampus.com/webuol/index.cfm>

Internet based learning technology provides online courses through several accredited colleges and universities that allow for starting a degree from scratch or finishing up a degree.

Video Interviews: The New England ADA Center recently released four video interviews conducted with college students with disabilities. In the videos, the students share strategies to successfully stay in school, graduate and get jobs. Students reveal their struggles with self-reporting their disability, and negotiating accommodations in school and at work. DVDs are available upon request. http://adaptiveenvironments.org/neada/site/student_videos

Asperger Syndrome College Resource Guide

<http://www.aspfi.org/college/>

Attention Deficit Disorder Resources

<http://add.obrienbusinessgroup.com/>

Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)

<http://www.chadd.org/>

College and Career Resources for Deaf Students

<http://gri.gallaudet.edu/ccg/>

College Living Experience

<http://www.cleinc.net/home.aspx>

Finding the right college program for students with autism spectrum disorders, Asperger's, nonverbal learning disorder, ADD/ADHD and other learning disabilities is vital for a college student's transition into independent adulthood. CLE is a comprehensive commercial program that provides young adults with the opportunity to pursue higher education and transition into their next life stage – independent adulthood.

Heath Resource Center

<http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>

The HEATH Resource Center is an online clearinghouse on postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities.

LD Online

<http://www.ldonline.org/>

LD Online is leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD.

SAT Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.collegeboard.com/ssd/student/>

ACT Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.act.org/aap/disab/index.html>

Wheelchair-friendly Colleges and Universities <http://www.geocities.com/ketchum4/>

U.S. Department of Education: Office of Special Education: This site was created to provide a "one-stop shop" for resources related to IDEA and its implementing regulations, released on August 3, 2006. It is a "living" website and will change and grow as resources and information become available. <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/home>

U.S. Department of Education: Office for Civil Rights
Customer Service Team

550 12 Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20202-1100

800-421-3481

877-521-2172 (TDD)

202-245-6840 (fax)

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights in Texas: For assistance related to civil rights, you may contact the OCR headquarters office in Washington D.C. or the OCR enforcement office serving your state or territory.

U.S. Department of Education

1999 Bryan Street, Suite 2600

Dallas, TX 75201

972-437-5923

214-880-2456 (TDD)

214-880-3082 (fax)

[The Higher Education Act: Office of Post-Secondary Education](#): Provides links and information related to rules and regulations for Post-Secondary Education.

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/library.html>

[Job Accommodation Network](#): The Job Accommodation Network is a service provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). JAN is one of several ODEP projects. JAN's mission is to facilitate the employment and retention of workers with disabilities by providing employers, employment providers, people with disabilities, their family members and other interested parties with information on job accommodations, entrepreneurship, and related subjects.

[Searchable Online Accommodations Resources \(SOAR\)](#): JAN's Searchable Online Accommodation Resource (SOAR) system is designed to let users explore various accommodation options for people with disabilities in work and educational settings:
<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/soar/index.htm>

[Accommodations by Topic and Disability](#): Search for accommodations by topic or disability.
<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/links/atoz.htm>

Government Accountability Office (GAO): *Education Needs a Coordinated Approach to Improve Its Assistance to Schools in Supporting Students*

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-10-33> (full report pdf)

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d1033high.pdf> (highlights of report pdf)