



Keeping Long term Goals in Mind Early in a Child's Educational Career

Goals Beyond High School

Parents often set goals for their children while they are very young. It's okay to dream big! In fact, your high expectations will be a major factor in your child's success.

Learning beyond high school leads to increased employment opportunities, but not everyone wants to attend college. If attending college is in your child's future, it is important to note that protections provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) end at age 22 or at the time your child obtains a Standard of Advanced Studies Diploma. The Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) requirement does not apply to post-secondary education.

Additional Options

There are additional options for training beyond high school and many of these options are located in your community. Your child might decide to attend an apprenticeship program that will provide a hands-on learning experience while also being paid. Virginia also provides post-secondary training programs that are often located on community college campuses or in workforce development centers.

[Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services](#) (DARS) can assist eligible children with obtaining and maintaining employment or attending college if their employment goals require a degree.

[Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center](#) (WWRC) provides training programs that lead to careers in manufacturing, information technology, and other [career clusters](#).

Keep in Mind:

- High expectations will be a major factor in your child's success.
- Employment is a major part of life for most adults.
- Plan for a career (work that provides a level of satisfaction, as well as pay); not just a job.
- Virginia is an [Employment First State](#). Employment First is supporting and promoting competitive, integrated employment as a first choice. This provides a work setting that includes people with and without disabilities where the individual will earn a competitive wage similar to that of others doing the same work. A competitive wage means a wage that is at or above the minimum wage.
- Your child will likely develop personal goals that may not be your goals.
- Providing opportunities to exercise [goal setting](#) can lead to better post-school outcomes.

