

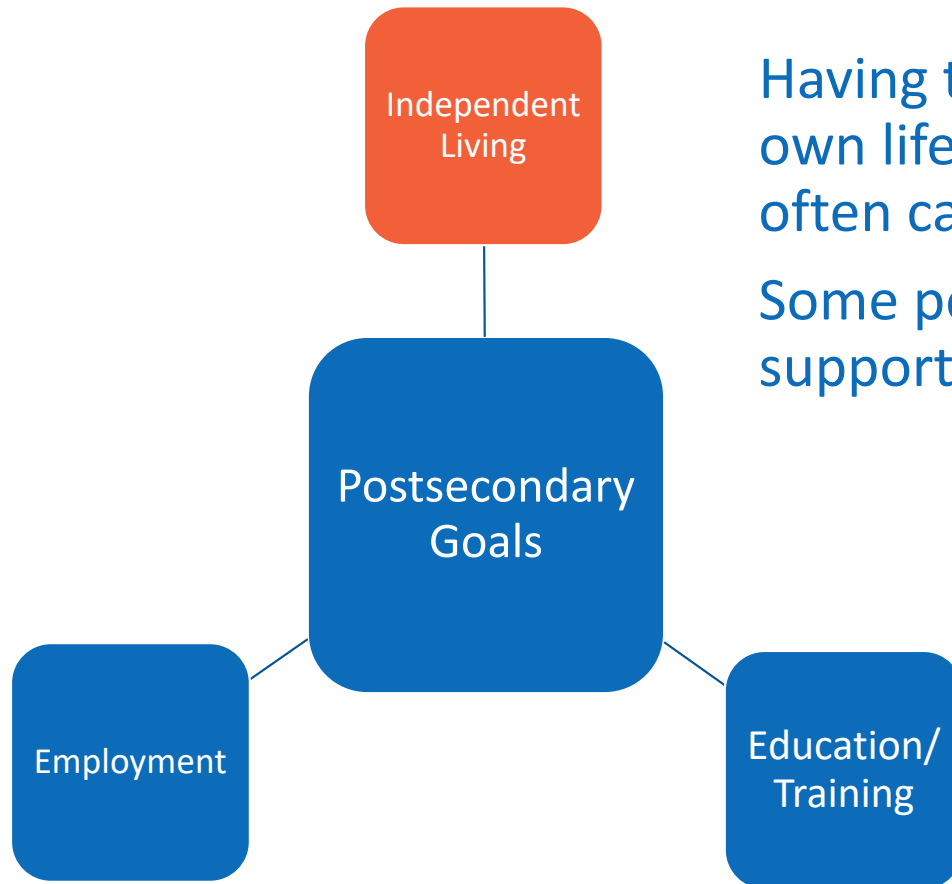


# Navigating Adulthood: Transportation Planning for Students with Disabilities

SPEDTex webinar  
April 23, 2025

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State Transition Coordinator  
Texas Education Agency

# Transition Planning: Independent Living



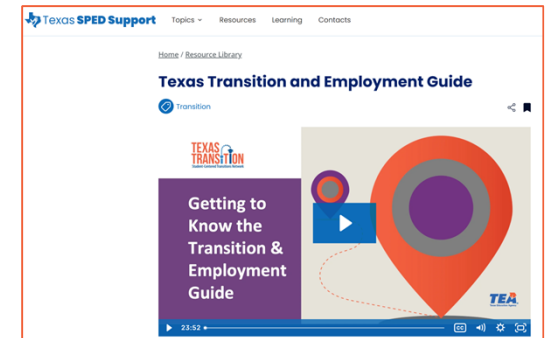
Having the skills and support to direct your own life at home and in the community is often called independent living.

Some people may need to plan for supports to be as independent as possible.

# Supports for Independent Living

Think about your child at home or school. Which of the following activities do they need support to manage?

- Cooking meals or shopping for groceries
- Cleaning the house
- Showering, getting dressed, or taking care of health needs
- Getting from home to work, stores, friends' houses (transportation)
- Planning fun things to do with friends
- Getting help in an emergency
- Staying safe at home or in the community
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- I can take care of these things on my own.



<https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/resource-library/texas-transition-and-employment-guide>

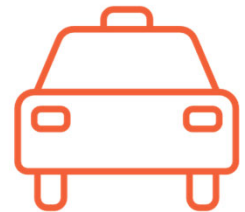
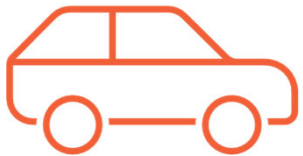
# The Need for Planning

- When your child is 25 years old, how will they:
  - Get to and from their job?
  - Go to doctor's appointments?
  - Hang out with friends?
  - Go shopping for groceries, clothing, household items?
  
- During the school years (as available and/or eligible)
  - School bus
  - School-owned van or vehicle
  - Special transportation
  - Public transportation with support from school staff



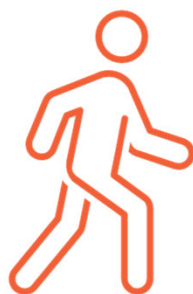
# Types of Transportation

- Driving a car
- Public transit
- Taxis
- Rideshare (such as Uber or Lyft)



# Creative solutions

- Bicycle
- Walking
- Carpooling
- Golf cart
- Scooter



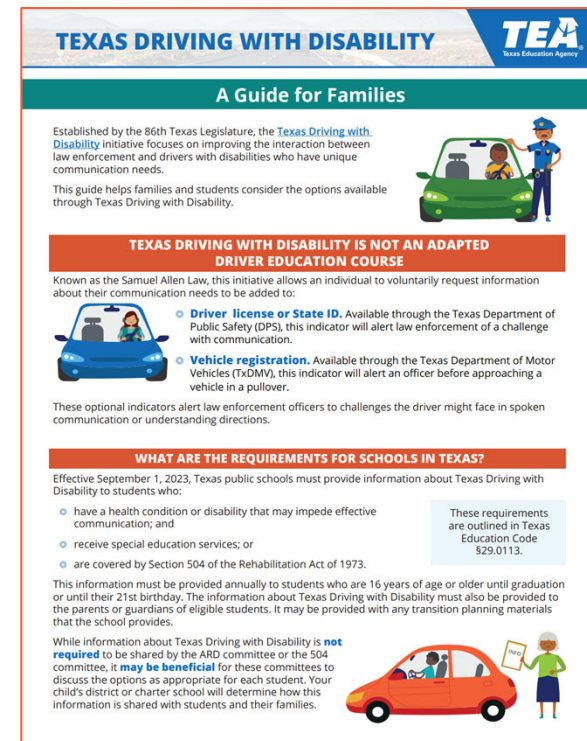



# Specialized Supports for Transportation

# Specialized Supports for Driving

- Allowable accommodations on the driving test
- Accessible parking
- Driver Rehabilitation Programs
- Adaptive driving
- Vehicle modification or adaptive driving aids
- Texas Driving with Disability: optional indicators for communication challenges
  - Driver license
  - Vehicle registration

**What are your child's unique needs related to driving?**




**TEXAS DRIVING WITH DISABILITY** 

**A Guide for Families**

Established by the 86th Texas Legislature, the **Texas Driving with Disability** initiative focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities who have unique communication needs.

This guide helps families and students consider the options available through Texas Driving with Disability.



**TEXAS DRIVING WITH DISABILITY IS NOT AN ADAPTED DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE**

Known as the Samuel Allen Law, this initiative allows an individual to voluntarily request information about their communication needs to be added to:

- **Driver license or State ID.** Available through the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), this indicator will alert law enforcement of a challenge with communication.
- **Vehicle registration.** Available through the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV), this indicator will alert an officer before approaching a vehicle in a pullover.

These optional indicators alert law enforcement officers to challenges the driver might face in spoken communication or understanding directions.

**WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOLS IN TEXAS?**


Effective September 1, 2023, Texas public schools must provide information about Texas Driving with Disability to students who:

- have a health condition or disability that may impede effective communication; and
- receive special education services; or
- are covered by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

These requirements are outlined in Texas Education Code §29.0113.

This information must be provided annually to students who are 16 years of age or older until graduation or until their 21st birthday. The information about Texas Driving with Disability must also be provided to the parents or guardians of eligible students. It may be provided with any transition planning materials that the school provides.

While information about Texas Driving with Disability is **not required** to be shared by the ARD committee or the 504 committee, it **may be beneficial** for these committees to discuss the options as appropriate for each student. Your child's district or charter school will determine how this information is shared with students and their families.



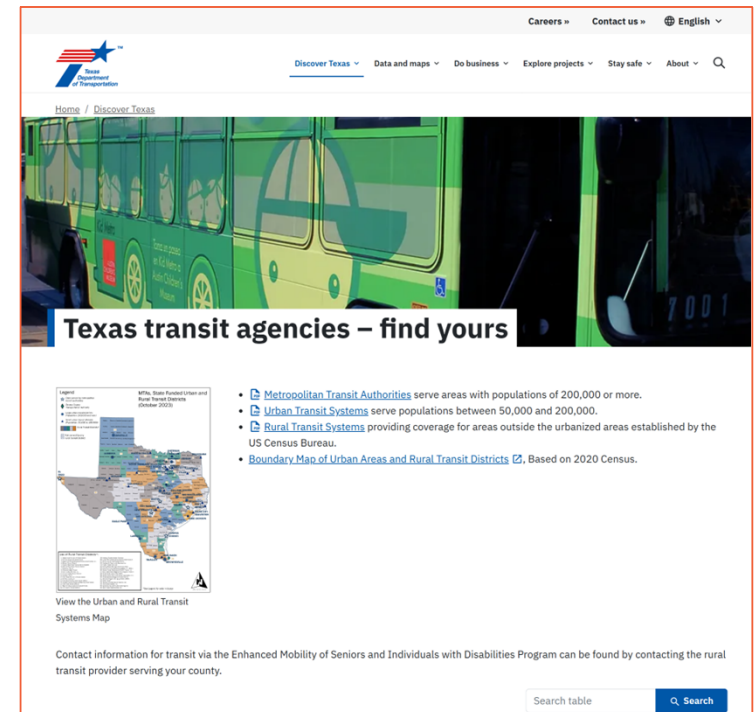
<https://tea.texas.gov/texas-schools/health-safety-discipline/texas-driving-with-disability>



# Specialized Supports for Public Transit

- Discounted fares
- Wheelchair lift, special seating
- Paratransit
- Rural transit

**What transportation is available in your area?**



The screenshot shows the Texas Department of Transportation website. The main heading is "Texas transit agencies – find yours". Below the heading is a map of Texas with various transit systems marked. To the right of the map is a list of transit types:

- [Metropolitan Transit Authorities](#) serve areas with populations of 200,000 or more.
- [Urban Transit Systems](#) serve populations between 50,000 and 200,000.
- [Rural Transit Systems](#) providing coverage for areas outside the urbanized areas established by the US Census Bureau.
- [Boundary Map of Urban Areas and Rural Transit Districts](#) [↗](#), Based on 2020 Census.

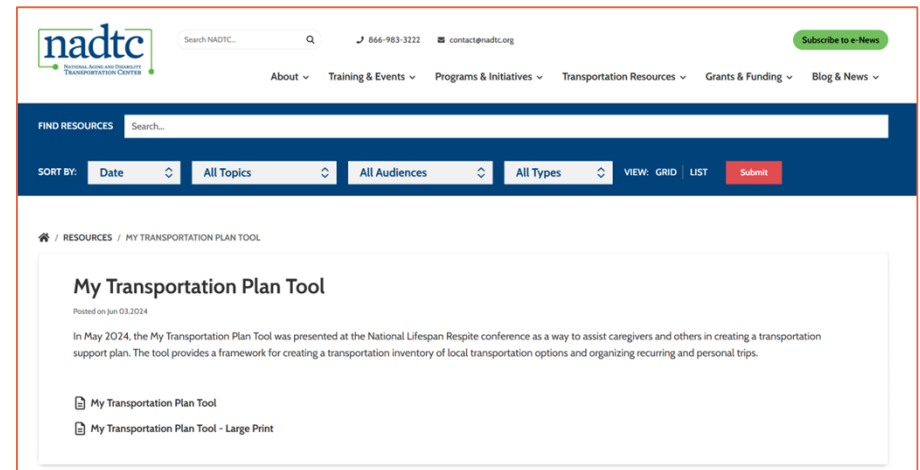
At the bottom of the page, there is a search bar with the text "Search table" and a "Search" button.

<https://www.txdot.gov/discover/texas-transit-agencies.html?form=MG0AV3>

# Specialized Supports for Private Transportation

- Rideshare/taxi
  - Safety
  - Requesting vehicles with wheelchair
  - Free or reduced cost
- Network of friends and family
- Volunteers

**What options might work best for your child?**



<https://www.nadtc.org/resources-publications/resource/my-transportation-plan-tool/>

# Transportation assistance from agencies

- Texas Workforce Solutions – Vocational Rehabilitation Services
  - Bus vouchers
  - Vehicle modifications
- Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) through Medicaid
- Demand Response Transportation Services (DRTS) through Medicaid waivers (managed by Texas Health and Human Services)
- Easter Seals
- Goodwill
- United Way

<https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/resource-library/roadmap-texas-transition-resources>



**Roadmap to Texas Transition Resources**

Transition

**TEXAS TRANSITION** Roadmap to Texas Transition Resources

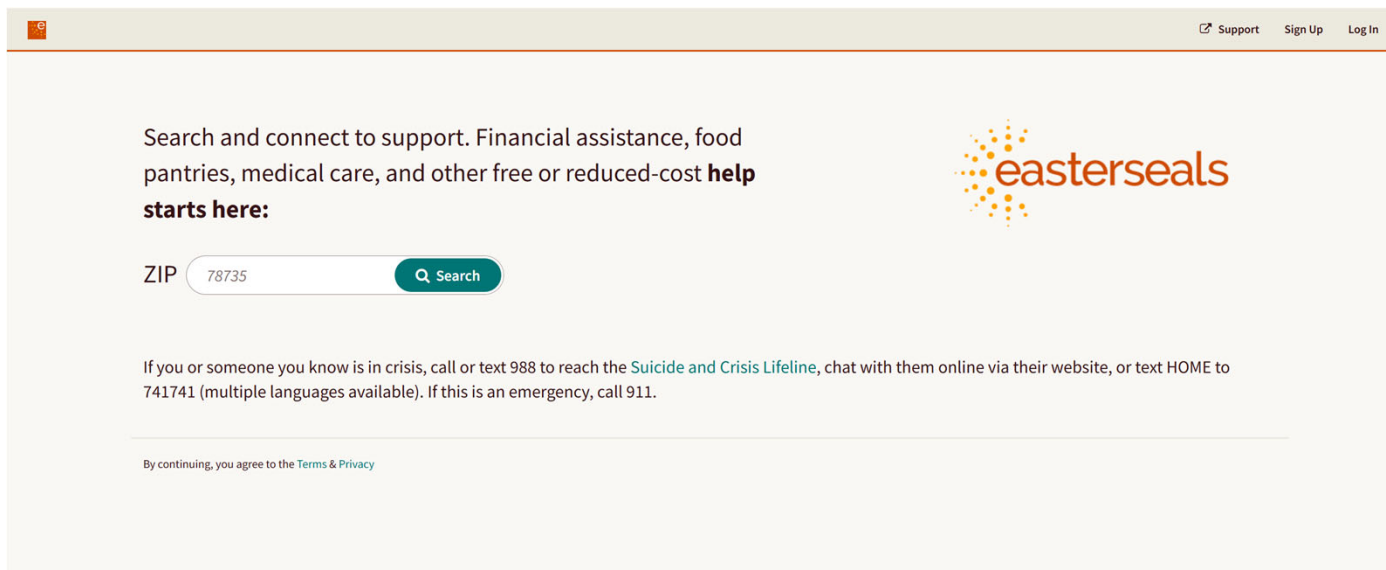
How to Use: Families and students can use this document to make connections with local education agency (LEA) staff, local agencies, state agencies, and groups as needed throughout the entire special education transition process (Early Childhood Special Education to exit from high school). The appropriate staff at the LEA can complete the Local Resources section of this document to represent the most current information about local staff and agency support available to students and families. For detailed information about each resource, see the Resource Descriptions section at the end of this document.

Agency/Individual	Local Resources						Contact Information
	Advocacy	Financial	Legal	Education	Employment	Community	
Centers for Independent Living (CIL)	X			X	X	X	Email Phone Website
Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Provider				X			Email Phone Website
Housing Authority		X			X	X	Email Phone Website
LEA Child Find Contact				X			Email Phone Website
LEA Transition and Employment Designee (TED)				X	X	X	Email Phone Website

View English Document View Spanish Document

# Easter Seals

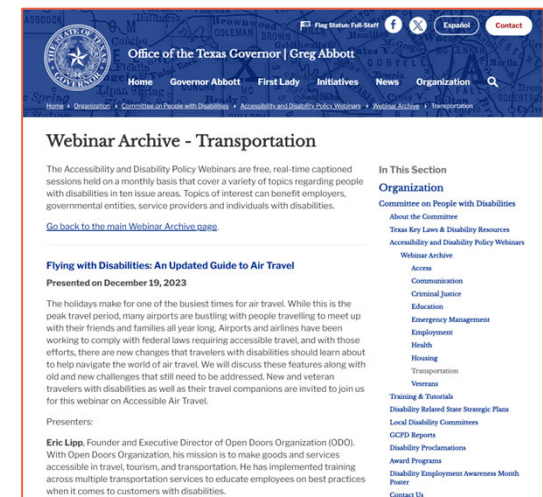
<https://easterseals.findhelp.com/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Easter Seals Find Help website. At the top right, there are links for "Support", "Sign Up", and "Log In". The main content area features a search prompt: "Search and connect to support. Financial assistance, food pantries, medical care, and other free or reduced-cost **help starts here:**". Below this is a search input field with the text "ZIP" and "78735" entered, and a green "Search" button. To the right of the search area is the Easter Seals logo, which consists of a cluster of orange dots forming a circular shape next to the text "easterseals". At the bottom of the page, there is a small line of text: "By continuing, you agree to the [Terms & Privacy](#)".

# Webinar Archive: Transportation

- **Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities**
  - Flying with Disabilities: An Updated Guide to Air Travel
  - Accessible Parking in Texas
  - Paratransit Transportation Solutions for Texans with Disabilities
  - From Accessible Parking to Housing Vouchers: An Overview of Fair Housing Topics
  - Creating Opportunities Through Accessible Transportation
  - Curb Ramps, Sidewalks, Oh My! Navigating the public rights of way in Texas
  - Texas Driving with Autism Initiative
  - Accessible Parking: Enforcement



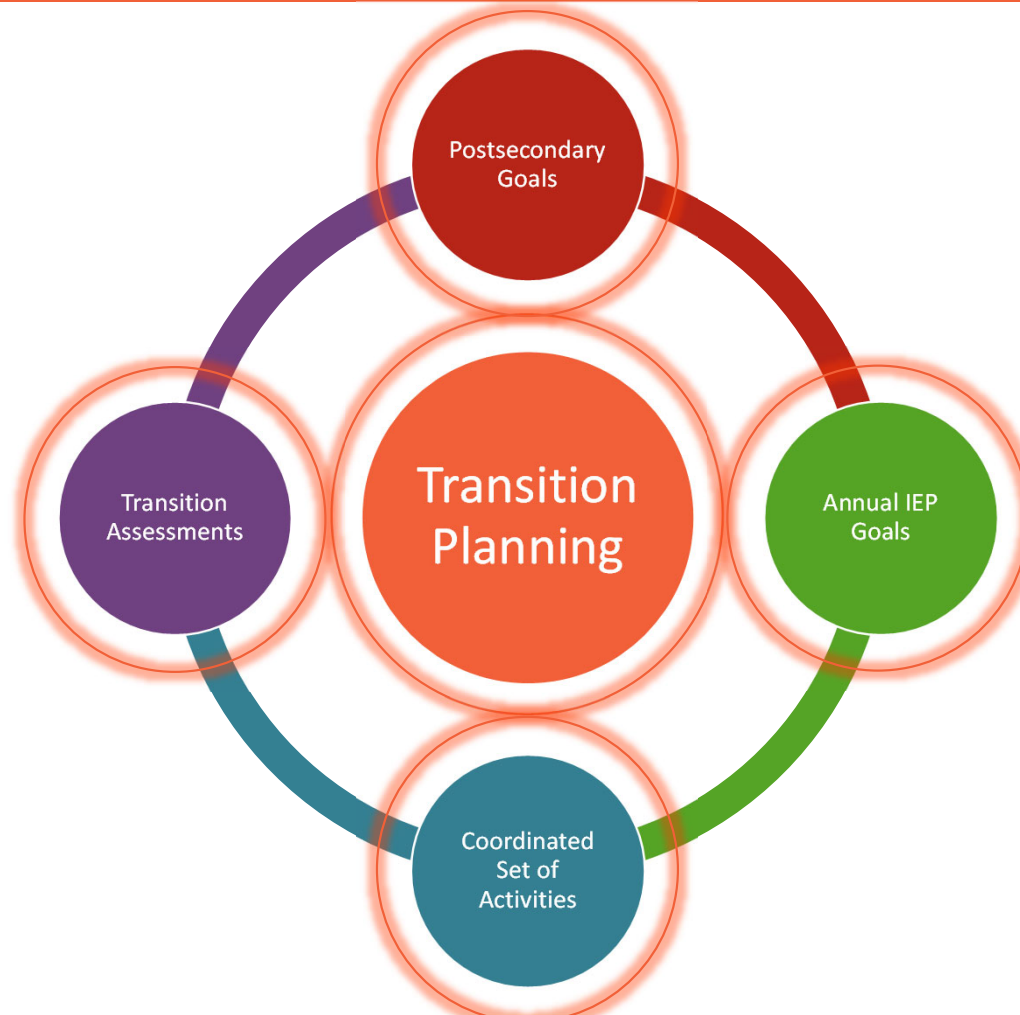
The screenshot shows the 'Webinar Archive - Transportation' page on the Office of the Texas Governor's website. The page features a navigation menu at the top with links for Home, Governor Abbott, First Lady, Initiatives, News, and Organization. The main content area is titled 'Webinar Archive - Transportation' and includes a brief description of the webinars, a link to the main archive page, and a section for the webinar 'Flying with Disabilities: An Updated Guide to Air Travel' presented on December 19, 2023. The page also lists presenters, including Eric Lipp, and a sidebar with various organizational links.

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/webinar-archive-transportation>



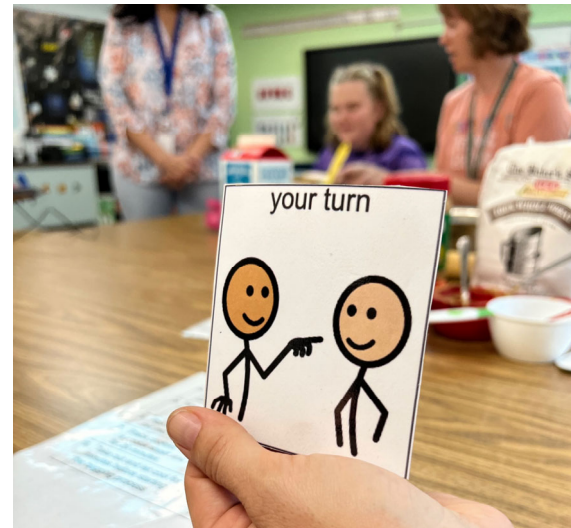
# Navigating Your Next Steps

# Transition Planning



# Steps to Take Today

- Think about your child's needs on their "best day," when they are as independent as possible.
- Talk as a family about your goals for how your child will get around their community in adulthood.
- Explore **one** resource to learn about options for your child, including eligibility requirements.







**Thank you!**