

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSITION PROGRAMS & ADULT PROGRAMS

Program Aspects	SpEd Transition Programs	Adult Programs
Application Process	NONE	Application must be started by individual, family/caregiver or RCEB case manager. May include written application, visit, trial visit, medical clearance, intake interviews, etc.
Eligibility Criteria	Must meet Special Education eligibility criteria	Entrance criteria varies by program & service. Call in advance to get details for the programs you are interested in.
Transportation	Provided through the IEP	Based on need & ability, may be provided by: RCEB, Paratransit, some adult programs, or public transit. Must be pre-arranged & applied for in advance through RCEB case manager.
Waiting Lists for Enrollment	NONE (but may be waiting lists for certain specialized services)	Many adult programs have waiting lists. Apply as early as age 18. Spaces for wheelchair users or those with severe behavioral challenges are very limited.
Program Year	9-month school year that follows the district calendar, with the possibility of extended school year (ESY) as per IEP	Most programs are year-round, with major holidays off. You must notify the program if your young adult will be absent due to a family vacation.
Absences	Regular attendance encouraged	Regular attendance required. Adult programs do not receive funds when participants are absent.
Staff to Student Ratios	Varies by class	Can be 1:1, 1:3, 1:16 or up to 1:15 depending on funding and program type.

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Lunch Services	Cafeteria on site and free lunch programs available.	None provided. Program participants are expected to provide their own lunches.
Nursing Services	Provided as needed	Provided in specially designated adult programs. Licensed programs may cover glucose testing, g-tube nourishment, colostomy care. Requires a doctor-approved nursing plan & annual staff training
One-on-one Assistant	Possible, if IEP team deems it necessary.	RCEB may fund & monitor a one-on-one assistant in very rare situations, with intention of fading within 90 days.
Adaptive P.E.	Provided, as specified in IEP.	Varies by program.
Speech, PT, OT	Provided if IEP team determines need.	Speech therapy is no longer readily available. Programs may offer OT, usually funded creatively.
Regulatory Oversight	State Department of Education and State/Federal Mandates	State Department of Developmental Services via RCEB, Department of Labor and/or Department of Social Services (Community Care Licensing)
Parent Groups	Community Advisory Committee. Most districts offer support groups or parent training. Groups also through Family Empowerment Centers.	Few formal groups. Some programs have parent auxiliaries that raise funds for special purchases.

Contact Care Parent Network with questions.
 925-313-0999
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www.careparentnetwork.org



This is for informational purposes only. Please contact your RCEB case manager for more information.