

Course of Study

At age 14, the IEP team must review the course of study for the student. There should be a direct relationship between the course of study (classes and skills needed) and the student's postsecondary (i.e. after high school) goals. Three areas must be addressed: employment, education and independent living.

Courses of study are defined as a multi-year description of coursework to achieve the student's desired post-school goals, from the student's current to anticipated exit year. The courses of study should be identified on the student's IEP as a list of courses of study rather than a statement of instructional program. Here is how it works:

1. The IEP team reviews the required courses leading to graduation or completion of a school program.
2. The team helps the student select courses and other educational experiences that are most likely to move the student toward his or her desired postsecondary goals.
3. The IEP team should work closely with the guidance counselor who keeps a transcript of required courses toward graduation. The guidance counselor may be involved in the IEP meeting should there be changes to the coursework.
4. The IEP team should review the transcript and ensure that the courses identified support the student's postsecondary goals.

Each year after age 14, the IEP team, including the student, reconsiders the student's postsecondary goals and aligns the courses of study with those desired goals. The decisions regarding the courses of study should relate directly to where the student is currently performing and what he or she wants to do after graduation. The IEP team may take the following steps:

1. Review elective courses available and identify courses of study based on student's needs, taking into account preferences and interests.
2. Consider other educational experiences: work study, community-based instruction, independent living, and self-determination.
3. Consider whether any prioritization is necessary.

The connection between the student's postsecondary goals and the courses of study should be obvious and meet the following requirements:

- Do the transition services include courses of study that focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child to facilitate their movement from school to post-school objectives?
- Do the transition services include courses of study that align with the student's postsecondary goal(s)?



Helpful Hint: Parents and students should request the "Program of Studies" booklet each year. The booklet provides a brief description of all classes offered at MHS, graduation requirements, etc. Request a copy from the guidance office or download a copy from <http://mhs.middletowncityschools.com>