



## Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

THEODORE KASTNER, MD, MS  
Commissioner

Dear School Administrator:

New York State schools offer many supports and services to children and young adults with developmental disabilities. Our schools play an important role in helping young adults and their families plan for their future as they prepare to leave school. The NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is here to help you as you assist young adults and their families when making important decisions for their future.

OPWDD is the primary state agency responsible for providing adult supports and services to people with developmental disabilities who meet our eligibility criteria. Adult services can begin at the end of the school year when students turn 21 years old, or when they graduate with a diploma. In order for these services to be available when the students complete their education programs, the students and their families must contact OPWDD and request them. As you know, NYSED regulations require that the planning process begin by age 15. Planning with OPWDD should begin two to three years before the student completes his or her educational program so the continuation of services from school to adult life is as seamless as possible.

OPWDD has developed informational material to help students with developmental disabilities and their parents/guardians plan for their future. In addition to information about OPWDD supports, the agency has identified other resources that can help individuals and families navigate the transition process. We are providing you with a supply of the materials that you can share with students who may be eligible for OPWDD services and their parents/guardians. These students and family members should be encouraged to contact their local OPWDD Front Door to learn more about OPWDD and Medicaid eligibility and services, or talk with their care manager if eligibility has already been determined. **Your assistance can help ensure that OPWDD adult services are in place for all students who need them upon graduation.**

In addition, OPWDD can provide some services and supports for students while they are still in school to help them have greater success. Be sure to let students and their families know they can contact OPWDD at any time to learn about supports and services.

If you have any questions or need additional materials, please contact the Local School Transition Coordinator at your OPWDD Regional Office. The Transition Planning flyer has a listing of phone numbers for your convenience.

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Executive Office

44 Holland Avenue, Albany, New York 12229-0001 | 866-946-9733 | [www.opwdd.ny.gov](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov)

Thank you for helping your students receive the supports they need to live richer lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theodore Kastner".

Theodore Kastner, MD, MS  
Commissioner

CC: OPWDD Developmental Disabilities Regional Office Directors  
OPWDD Local School Transition Coordinators

Attachment: Letter for families  
List of Transition Resources  
OPWDD brochures