

# TRANSITION TO LIFE BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL



## RESOURCE MANUAL

*A Guide for Special Education students,  
parents, and educators in the central  
Georgia region.*

### **Acknowledgements:**

*This Guide was developed as a collaborative effort from Middle Georgia  
Regional Transition Council (MGRTC) Leadership Council members.*

*Special Thanks to the Middle GLRS for the production of this resource manual.*

### **Please note:**

*The information contained in this manual is not all inclusive and must be  
verified by the reader for up to date accuracy. All organizations, businesses, and  
agencies included in this manual are not endorsed by the MGRTC.*

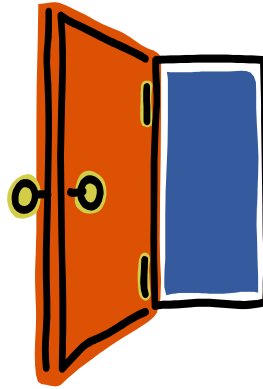




MGRTC  
WWW.MGRTC.ORG



*“Opening Doors to Opportunity!”*



**Mission:**

The Middle Georgia Regional Transition Council facilitates and supports the transition of students with a disability from secondary education to adult living, employment, and/or post-secondary education, through successful involvement between local school systems, educators, families, students, and their communities.

**Vision:**

MGRTC is a group of individuals who have an active interest in ensuring that students with disabilities have opportunities to develop their potential for their future.



**Middle Georgia - Georgia Learning Resources System**  
**80 Cohen Walker Drive B-226, Warner Robins, Georgia 31088**  
**# 478-988-7177**

*Serving students with disabilities in Georgia since 1971.*

*The Middle Georgia GLRS serves the following counties: Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, and Twiggs. Middle Georgia GLRS also supports Middle GA GNETS and Georgia Academy for the Blind.*

The Georgia Learning Resources System (GLRS) is a network of 17 regional programs that provide training and resources to school system personnel, parents of students with disabilities, and other interested individuals to support the achievement, graduation rate, and post-secondary success of students with disabilities.

The programs are funded by the Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Services and Supports, and are operated in collaboration with Regional Educational Service Agencies and local school districts that serve as fiscal agents for the programs. GLRS programs are funded entirely with federal discretionary funds made available through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).



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*The majority of the information provided is local, with some statewide resources.*

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# Timeline for Seeking Services

## While the student is still in middle/high school:

- **IEP vs. 504 Plans** ~ Included is a chart to help you understand the differences. Once the student graduates, the IEP is no longer in effect. However, the 504 plan can be used in a post-secondary institution.
- **Transition Plan** ~ Ensure that your IEP contains a Transition Plan. This Transition Plan should be specific and unique to the individual student. It is a “guide” to help the student achieve goals for life beyond high school. Utilize the Transition Timeline Chart included in this manual.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation** ~ Apply for Vocational Rehab services in 11th grade. **If** the student qualifies, it should be a part of their transition plan.
- **Current Psychological** ~ Ensure that the student has a *recent* comprehensive psychological completed *before* he/she graduates from high school. This will be necessary for the student in order to receive adequate services to assist them in their adult life. This is very important and should be requested by the parent or guardian.
- **Senate Bill 10 (SB-10)** ~ Understand this bill and how it can be utilized while your child is still in middle/high school. Information about this bill is included in this manual.
- **Medicaid Waivers and Other Supports** ~ Apply for these now, while the student is still in middle/high school. Often times, individuals wait many years for benefits.
- **Camps and Community Programs** ~ Help the student get involved in community programs and camps. Building relationships and learning social skills will prepare the student for life beyond school.
- **Job Skills** ~ Have the student volunteer at a place of interest, visit businesses and organizations with the student to explore what it is like, set up job shadowing, and make phone calls directly to those in charge to reach out. You will be amazed at how many places are more than happy to offer these types of opportunities!

## When the student is preparing to graduate from high school:

- **Social Security** ~ The student should apply for SSI or SSDI at age 18. This will now be based on the individual, as a legal adult, and not on the family income.
- **Post-Secondary Options** ~ Do your research and visit colleges. First stop is to connect with the college Disability Coordinator! Thinkcollege.net is an amazing national website for students with a special need exploring post-secondary options. Information is included in this manual.
- **Residential & Day Programs** ~ If this is a route the student is taking instead of a post-secondary, ensure that the student and parent have visited various options prior to graduation to find the “right” fit.
- **Employment** ~ Whatever the needs of the student might be, make sure things are in place for them to be successful on the job (Supported Employment, Job Coach, accommodations/modifications at work, talking with the supervisor, etc.)

- **Guardianship** ~ Begin researching this, if this is deemed necessary for the student once they become a legal adult. There are various options that can be discussed with an advocate and lawyer who specializes in disability law.
- **Transportation** ~ If the student is unable to drive themselves, research options in your area. If pursuing a driver's license, contact your local DMV ahead of time to receive any accommodations the student might need for the written exam.
- **Medical and Health** ~ Ensure the student has health insurance and any other medically needed supports in place via Medicaid Waivers or other types of disability supports.
- **Identification** ~ If not pursuing a driver's license, make sure the student gets an official Georgia ID card from your local Department of Motor Vehicle office.



The “key” is to make sure the student remains actively engaged in life after they graduate from high school.

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# Advocacy, Legal, and Guardianship

## **All About Developmental Disabilities**

[www.aadd.org](http://www.aadd.org)

**Contact:** 404-881-9777

*AADD serves individuals with developmental disabilities age 3 to throughout their lifetime. We focus not only on the individual, but on the family unit as a whole. Our programs and services are focused on these key areas: Family Support Services, Employment Services, Community Engagement, and Public Policy/Advocacy.*

## **Citizen Advocacy (Macon/Bibb)**

<http://maconbibbcitizenadvocacy.org/about-us>

**Contact:** 478-743-1521

*The mission of Citizens Advocacy Office is to work with and for oppressed and vulnerable individuals in Georgia who are labeled as disabled or mentally ill to secure their protection and advocacy.*

## **Disability Connections**

[www.disabilityconnections.com](http://www.disabilityconnections.com)

**Contact:** 478-741-1425

*Empower individuals to advocate in their own lives and advocating for the rights of all people with disabilities.*

## **Georgia Council for Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)**

[www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org)

**Contact:** 888-275-4233

*The mission of the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities is to bring about social and policy changes that promote opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their families to live, learn, work, play and worship in Georgia communities.*

## **Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO)**

[www.thegao.org](http://www.thegao.org)

**Contact:** 800-537-2329

*GAO is a private nonprofit corporation. Its mission is to work with and for oppressed and vulnerable individuals in Georgia who are labeled as disabled or mentally ill to secure their protection and advocacy.*

**Georgia Legal Services Program, Inc.**

<http://www.glsp.org/>

**Contact:** 404-206-5175

*The Georgia Legal Services Program provides access to justice and opportunities out of poverty for Georgians with low-incomes. Their lawyers and paralegals provide the help that reflects the community's values of fairness, equality, and responsibility to assist others in need.*

**Guardianship** Information can be found by getting help from the above listed agencies. There is also some very good information at both of these websites; including a downloadable handbook:

- <https://www.gaprobate.org/guardianship.php>
- [http://aging.dhr.georgia.gov/sites/aging.dhs.georgia.gov/files/imported/DHR-DAS/DHR-DAS\\_Publications/ELAP-%20GUARDIANSHIP%202012.pdf](http://aging.dhr.georgia.gov/sites/aging.dhs.georgia.gov/files/imported/DHR-DAS/DHR-DAS_Publications/ELAP-%20GUARDIANSHIP%202012.pdf)



# Community Programs and Camps

**Schools:** Your local Public or Private Schools often have after school care and/or special summer programs. Follow up with your district.

## **County Recreation & Parks Departments:**

Your county Parks Department may offer special programs through their office of Therapeutic Recreation. Each County can vary on what they do or do not offer.

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## **Georgia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies**

<http://dec.al.ga.gov/ChildCareServices/CCRRSystem.aspx>

*Collaborates with families, community and state partners, GACCRRRA advocates to support the early care and education community by responding to their needs in building capacity for safe, healthy and nurturing community environments for child development. Parents can search for childcare programs in their area.*

## **Bricks4Kidz Central GA**

[www.brick4kidz.com/centralga](http://www.brick4kidz.com/centralga)

*Many locations throughout middle GA. They offer camps, field trips, open classes, birthday parties, pre-school classes, and after school programs.*

**Contact:** Cris Birmingham at 478-471-2593 or [cbirmingham@brick4kidz.com](mailto:cbirmingham@brick4kidz.com)

## **Childcare and Parent Services Program(CAPS)**

<http://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/subsidized-child-care-assistance>

*Subsidized child care in Georgia is provided through the Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program to help low income families afford quality child care. The CAPS program is administered in all 159 Georgia counties through the county Department of Family and Children Services.*

## **Big Brother Big Sister (BBBS)**

[www.bbbsheartga.org](http://www.bbbsheartga.org)

**Contact:** 478-745-3984 or [agency@bbbsheartga.org](mailto:agency@bbbsheartga.org)

*Big Brother Big Sister makes a positive difference in the lives of children by promoting their self-esteem, expanding their awareness of life opportunities, and providing them with guidance and support through long-term, one-to-one mentoring with caring adults.*

## **Boy Scouts of America ~ Central GA Council**

[www.centralgeorgiacouncil.org](http://www.centralgeorgiacouncil.org)

**Contact:** 1-800-272-9386

*The Boy Scouts of America provides a youth program of character development and values based leadership training. Boy Scouts of America prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lifetime.*

## **Girl Scout Council ~ Historic GA**

<https://www.gshg.org/>

**Contact:** 478-935-2221

*Girl Scout is an organization dedicated solely to girls in an accepting and nurturing environment. Girls develop character and skills for success in the real world.*

## **Junior Achievement of Georgia (JA)**

[www.georgia.ja.org](http://www.georgia.ja.org)

*Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness and financial literacy through experiential hands-on programs. All programs align with Georgia's Performance Standards, while equipping students with the tools to be personally and professionally successful. JA brings the real world to students, opening their minds to their full potential by bridging the business and education communities.*

## **Georgia 4-H**

<http://www.georgia4h.org/main/about4h.cfm>

**Contact:** [ga4h@uga.edu](mailto:ga4h@uga.edu)

*The mission of Georgia 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is accomplished through "hands on" learning experiences, focused on agricultural and environmental issues, agriculture awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship. Each county has an extension agent.*

## **The Adopted Teen Empowerment and Mentoring Program (ATEAM)**

<https://dfcs.dhs.georgia.gov/adopted-teen-empowerment-and-mentoring-ateam-program>

**Contact:** 707-965-9336

*The Adopted Teen Empowerment & Mentoring Program (ATEAM) provides the opportunity for adopted teens with special needs to interact with other adopted children. Ages/grades are 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Monthly meetings occur in each of the 12 regions across the state.*

## **Special Olympics of Georgia**

[www.specialolympicsga.org](http://www.specialolympicsga.org)

**Contact:** 770-414-9390 ext. 120 (Middle GA is Area 7)

*Special Olympics is a global organization that serves more than 4 million athletes with intellectual disabilities working with hundreds of thousands of volunteers and coaches each year. There are numerous and diverse opportunities right here in middle Georgia for young people with a wide array of challenges to participate in sports teams, events, and other types of activities.*

### **Miracle League**

[www.mlmacon.org](http://www.mlmacon.org)

**Contact:** 478-731-3215

*Founded in 2003. Miracle League of Macon is a baseball league for children and youth with disabilities, physical and/or mental, boys and girls, ages 5-20.*

### **Camp Little Shot**

[www.camolittleshot.com](http://www.camolittleshot.com)

**Contact:** 478- 746-8626

*This is an annual one week for camp for children with diabetes, ages 6-18. Location is at **Rock Eagle 4-H**, Eatonton, GA.*

### **Camp Big Heart**

[www.bigheart.com](http://www.bigheart.com)

**Contact:** 678-294-1916 or [campbigheart@bellsouth.net](mailto:campbigheart@bellsouth.net)

*Headquarters is in Stone Mountain, GA. Locations vary year to year. For 2015, this camp will take place in Fort Valley. It is a week-long, summer residential camp opportunity for children and adults with mild to moderate disabilities.*

### **Camp Twin Lakes**

[www.camptwinlakes.org](http://www.camptwinlakes.org)

**Contact:** 404-231-1916 or [contact@camptwinlakes.org](mailto:contact@camptwinlakes.org)

*For the past 21 years, Camp Twin Lakes has provided life-changing camp experiences to thousands of Georgia's children with serious illnesses, disabilities, and other life challenges. Camp Twin Lakes provides week-long summer camps and year-round weekend retreats at three fully-accessible and medically-supportive campsites, day camps, and through hospital-based Camp-To-Go program.*

### **GOAL Special Needs Ministry Group at Lizella Baptist Church**

<http://www.lizellabaptist.net/> and "like" them on Facebook.

*They have a special needs ministry, monthly social gatherings, and a spring formal dance for individuals with disabilities.*

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***The following places have had summer opportunities in the past specifically for children and youth with special needs. However, they may or may not from summer to summer. Please check with them specifically from year to year:***

### **SAI Rehab**

[www.sairehab.com](http://www.sairehab.com)

**Contact:** 475-7988 or [info@sairehab.com](mailto:info@sairehab.com)

*Sai Rehab is a rehabilitation provider of Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy services that enhance the individual capabilities of children and foster their independence.*

**The Therapy Connection** ( Formally known as Dumas Therapy)

You can "like" them on Facebook

**Contact:** 478-731-9477

*Our mission is to assist every patient in living their best life through functional therapeutic interventions. Facility currently offers Speech and Occupational Therapy.*

**Woodfield Academy**

[www.woodfieldacademy.org](http://www.woodfieldacademy.org)

**Contact:** 478-477-9844 or [Bsessions@woodfieldacademy.org](mailto:Bsessions@woodfieldacademy.org)

*Woodfield Academy is an independent school in Macon that empowers students with diagnosed learning differences or developmental disorders to reach their maximum potential through an individualized education approach (Accepts SB-10).*

NOTE: Some great resources to check out programs and camps are

- Your local school system
- The Parent Mentor in your district's Special Education Department
- Georgia Family Magazine
  - GA Family Magazine creates a list of disability specific program opportunities every spring

# Family Support and Resources

## **Middle Georgia Down Syndrome Society**

**Contact:** [mgdssparents@gmail.com](mailto:mgdssparents@gmail.com)

(You can “like” us on Facebook)

*A group of parents seeking to support each other along this journey. They meet on the third Tuesday of every month for dinner at various locations.*

## **(NAMI) National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**

[www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

**Contact:** Statewide 1-800-715-4225

*Provides support groups, education and advocacy for family and friends of those with mental illness. Family-to-family class offered free to family and friends of individuals with severe mental illness (taught by trained NAMI family members).*

## **(PMP) Parent Mentor Partnership**

[www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org)

**Contact:** [info@parentmentors.org](mailto:info@parentmentors.org)

*A parent driven initiative supported by the Georgia Department of Special Education and local school districts. Parent Mentors are parents of children with disabilities. Their role is to help build effective family, school, and community partnerships that lead to greater achievement for students with various levels of disabilities. Not every district in the state has a Parent Mentor, but the majority do. Parent Mentors have a wealth of information, resources and life experience raising a child with special needs.*

## **Central Georgia Autism, Ltd. (CGA)**

[www.centralgaautism.org](http://www.centralgaautism.org)

*The mission of CGA is to raise Autism Awareness in Central GA, educate families, and offer financial scholarships to individuals with an Autism Spectrum diagnosis. They welcome all families looking for support, guidance and information. The ultimate goal is for all individuals in the spectrum to succeed!*

## **Parent to Parent of GA (P2P)**

[www.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.org)

**Contact:** 1-800-229-2038

*Parent to Parent of Georgia provides support and information services and training and leadership opportunities for families who have children and youth with disabilities. They collaborate often with the Parent Mentor Partnership.*

**Anchor of Hope**

[www.anchorofhopefoundation.com](http://www.anchorofhopefoundation.com)

**Contact:** 478-994-0438

*Parent's Night Out is a respite program for children with special needs and their siblings. The program is offered from 6-9 p.m. on the first Friday of every month at Dayspring Presbyterian Church in Forsyth, GA (Monroe County).*

**(CHADD)**

Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

[www.chadd.org](http://www.chadd.org)

**Contact:** 800-233-4050

*Amazing resources, support, trainings, and information. Log on to the website to find chapters in Georgia.*

**North Vineville Psychological Services**

<http://northvinevillepsych.vpweb.com/home.html>

**Contact:** 478-477-0123

In addition to their private practice services, they offer bi-weekly group social skills therapy for children and youth ages 8-18.

**Middle Georgia Regional Transition Council (MGRTC)**

[www.mgrtc.org](http://www.mgrtc.org)

MGRTC is an opportunity to learn new things, get support, develop new relationships, and share your ideas and abilities. It is a collaboration of diverse people with a common interest and cause to improve the outcomes for students with disabilities transitioning to life after high school. We encourage parent involvement! Meetings are held monthly at the Department of Labor, Macon office.

**Shepherd Center's Benefits Navigator**

[www.benefitsnavigator.org](http://www.benefitsnavigator.org)

**Contact:** 1-800-283-1848

Shepherd Center's Benefits Navigator Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) assists persons with disabilities who want to work in understanding Social Security's rules about how working may affect Social Security cash and medical benefits and how other State Benefits might be affected. They work with people age 14 to Full Retirement Age who are already eligible for Social Security benefits.

**Puzzle Pieces Intervention**

<http://www.puzzlepiecesic.com/>

**Contact:** 478-919-8606

Puzzle Pieces specializes in Applied Behavior Analysis. They promote and assist individuals with the reduction of negative, disruptive behaviors (non-compliance, tantrums, aggression, self-injury, etc.), improve and increase language acquisition, academics, feeding deficits, social skills, play and leisure skills, adaptive and daily living skills, vocational skills, memory maintenance, and many more.

**Georgia Tools for Life**

<http://gatfl.org/>

**Contact:** 404- 894-0541

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

**Abilities Discovered, Inc.**

<http://abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org>

**Contact:** 1-800-265-1556 or [abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org](http://abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org)

Abilities Discovered, Inc. (ADI) is a private non-profit organization that strives to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. ADI serves the Middle Georgia area. People who seek support from ADI explore their wants and needs as well as their dreams. Safety and health are always a priority. Goals range from: making new friends, securing employment, going to college, buying a home of their own, having a spouse, traveling, being in a choir, living on their own, learning to swim, drive, act, paint or helping other people. Everyone's dreams are unique. Those associated with Abilities Discovered, Inc. share the belief that people with disabilities should live, work, and laugh alongside all of us.

# Financial Assistance

## **Champions for Children Program** (Easter Seals)

[www.championsforchildrenga.org](http://www.championsforchildrenga.org)

**Contact:** 1-866-584-3742 or [info@swga-easterseals.org](mailto:info@swga-easterseals.org)

This program is for those families who do not receive Medicaid AND have been denied the Katie Beckett Waiver. The goal is to help these families afford services, supports, therapy out of pocket costs and other services for their child with a special need.

## **Family Support Funds**

These are funds provided for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. Funds can be used towards things such as therapy, dental, medical, specialized equipment or clothing, nutrition, supplies, and sometimes extracurricular activities. There are requirements to meet. Please contact the organization in your county of residence to inquire.

- Baldwin, Bibb, Jones, Monroe, Putnam, Twiggs or Wilkinson county ~ Rivers Edge 478-803-7665/471-2315 **OR** Star Choices 478-743-9806
- Houston County ~ Phoenix Center 478-988-1222

## **CGA Autism grant**

[www.centralgaautism.org](http://www.centralgaautism.org)

They offer up to \$500 scholarships to qualifying families to help with things like bio-medical needs, alternative medical treatments, nutritional needs, supplements, equipment and technology needs, therapeutic interventions, special needs camps, etc. Please log onto their website and download the application and requirements.

## **Anchor of Hope**

[www.anchorofhopefoundation.com](http://www.anchorofhopefoundation.com)

**Contact:** 478-994-0438 or [aohfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aohfoundation@gmail.com)

A Christian organization providing financial and spiritual support, encouragement, community resources and services to families with disabilities. They also offer parents' night out once a month as respite.

## **United Healthcare Children's Foundation (UHCFF)**

<http://www.uhccf.org>

UHCFF grants provide financial help/assistance for families with children that have medical needs not covered or not fully covered by their commercial health insurance plan. The Foundation aims to fill the gap between what medical services/items a child needs and what their commercial health benefit plan will pay for.

## **AMAZING Special Needs Grants List**

[http://www.kidspeech.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=812&Itemid=639](http://www.kidspeech.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=812&Itemid=639)

They have an extensive list of special needs grants across the country for families to apply for.



# Independent Living, Supported Employment, and Day Programs

## **Abilities Discovered, Inc.**

<http://abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org>

**Contact:** 1-800-265-1556 or [abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org](http://abilitiesdiscoveredinc.org)

Abilities Discovered, Inc. (ADI) is a private non-profit organization that strives to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. ADI serves the Middle Georgia area. People who seek support from ADI explore their wants and needs as well as their dreams. Safety and health are always a priority. Goals range from: making new friends, securing employment, going to college, buying a home of their own, having a spouse, traveling, being in a choir, living on their own, learning to swim, drive, act, paint or helping other people. Everyone's dreams are unique. Those associated with Abilities Discovered, Inc. share the belief that people with disabilities should live, work, and laugh alongside all of us.

## **Advocacy Resource Center (ARC)**

[www.arc-macon.org](http://www.arc-macon.org)

**Contact:** 478-477-7764

*The ARC works with children and adults with cognitive, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in every aspect of community life to improve their quality of life.*

## **Generations Adult Day Care**

[www.gads-inc.com](http://www.gads-inc.com)

**Contact:** 478-477-1289

*They are a Georgia Medicaid waiver provider for Community Residential Alternatives and Community Living Support Services throughout the middle GA region, which provide services to all individuals who have an intellectual disability in the privacy and comfort of their own home or host home setting.*

## **Disability Connections**

[www.disabilityconnections.com](http://www.disabilityconnections.com)

**Contact:** 478-741-1425

*To enable all people with disabilities to attain and have access to all opportunities in life. They offer 5 core services: Information and referral, peer support, advocacy, independent living skills training, and nursing home transition.*

### **Helping Out People Environments (HOPE)**

<http://www.peopleenvironments.org/>

**Contact:** 478-314-0579 or 0578

Helping Out People Environments believes it is critical that services, supports, treatment and care respect the vision of the individual. Helping Out People Environments will incorporate this belief and practice into its service delivery to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living a meaningful life in the community. They offer residential services, day services, and community living supports.

### **Houston County Association for Exceptional Citizens (Happy Hour)**

[www.hcaec.com](http://www.hcaec.com)

**Contact:** 478-929-6600

*The mission of Happy Hour is to provide to any developmentally disabled person training in life, social, and work skills within a safe, caring and considerate environment that will enable them to function in the community. Located in Houston County and serves the middle GA region.*

### **All Care**

[www.maconhomehealthcareservice.com](http://www.maconhomehealthcareservice.com)

**Contact:** 478-207-6636

*Serving the needs of elderly and developmentally disabled adults in the comfort of their own home. Also provides community living support services.*

### **Department of Labor**

<http://www.dol.state.ga.us/>

**Contact:** Bibb office 478-751-6315, Houston office 478-988-7130

### **The Mentor Network ~ Ga Mentor**

<http://www.ga-mentor.com/welcome.aspx>

**Contact:** 478-785-0085

*They are a home and community based human service provider. Innovative programs are offered to youth and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and other complex challenges, as well as youth with emotional, behavioral and medical challenges.*

### **Brighter Path**

[www.Brighterpath.net](http://www.Brighterpath.net)

**Contact:** 478-845-3015

*A provider of personal support services for individuals with developmental disabilities and private home care needs. We serve and assist individuals in the Macon and Atlanta Metro areas.*

**Wesley Glen Ministries**

[www.wesleyglenministries.com](http://www.wesleyglenministries.com)

**Contact:** 478- 471-3711

*Wesley Glen Ministries serves adults with developmental disabilities by providing a home environment and continuum of programs to allow each individual to develop skills and greater confidence, living happy, full lives as contributing members of their Wesley Glen family and the surrounding community. They are located on a beautiful campus in Macon.*

**Goodwill Industries**

<http://www.goodwillworks.org/>

**Contact:** 478-475-9995

*Goodwill Industries of Middle GA was founded in 1975 to serve individuals with disabilities and other special needs. They are a community-based, non-profit alternative staffing organization whose mission is to educate, train and place people into temporary and temp-to-perm jobs that meet the needs of the businesses in middle Georgia. Located in Macon, GA, with a number of training programs to choose from.*

**Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)**

[www.gvra.georgia.gov](http://www.gvra.georgia.gov)

**Contact:** Middle GA region 478-757-4080

*Provides a variety of individual services to persons with disabilities in preparation for their employment in the competitive labor market and to employers seeking to retain valuable employees with disabilities. Voc. Rehab works with many schools in Middle GA along with the School Counselor and or Special Education Department staff to help provide these services for students. Parents can request an evaluation for their child to receive Voc. Rehab services.*

**Kay Community Service Center**

**Contact:** 478-825-3124

*Serving individuals with disabilities. Located in fort Valley, GA.*

# High School Programs

## **Career Technical Instruction**

<http://www.georgiacti.org/ProgramServices.htm>

**Contact:** 706-314-9624

*The Georgia Career and Technical Instruction support service is designed to support students with disabilities enrolled in Career, Technical and Agricultural Education classes. The goal of the secondary level (grades 9-12) services is to provide these students with job-entry skills at the completion of the CTAE experience. The role of the career and technical instruction coordinator is to provide resource assistance to students with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) in the CTAE program and to coordinate the services needed for the learner to acquire his/her goal of job placement. Currently, the only school district in the Middle GA region who participates is Bibb County. Contact the State Executive Director at the number above, to explore more or to find out how to get your school district involved.*

## **Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education**

*A wide array of Career, Technical and Agricultural Education programs are available in School District's middle schools and high schools. The CTAE mission is to equip students with the fundamental technical, academic, and leadership skills they will need for their further education and future careers. Leadership development is provided through co-curricular Career Technical Student Organizations. Check with your school district regarding policy, procedures, and eligibility of students.*

## **Georgia High School/High Tech Program**

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Documents/IDEAS%202013%20Handouts%203/From%20Learning%20to%20Earning.pdf>

**Contact:** Executive Director [Royston.Karen@gmail.com](mailto:Royston.Karen@gmail.com) or 706- 353- 7987

*A comprehensive community based transition program for youth with disabilities which provides a link to academic and career development experiences that enable them to successfully meet the workforce demands of the 21st century. Who is Eligible? Students in grades 8 -12 (ages 14 -22) and have a documented disability that's physical, sensory or learning related. Your High School would need to make the referral, so make sure you inquire! You can also contact them directly.*

## **Paxen Learning Corporation**

<http://paxen.com>

**Contact:** Middle GA / 478-254-8287

*Students ages 14 to 18 receive learning opportunities that encourage them to stay in school, earn their diplomas, and ultimately build better lives and livelihoods. Our career and life skills programs offer high-quality, hands-on training and personal attention via a customized curriculum and small-group and individualized instruction. We likewise provide out-of-school learners ages 18 to 21 with expert and individualized preparation in each of the five functional areas that together comprise the GED Tests®, as well as in key work-readiness skills. To find out if your school is participating or to find out how you can get this program into your school, contact the center or discuss with the student's school.*

## **Georgia Career Information Center**

<http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu/>

**Contact:** 404-413-1720

*The Georgia Career Information Center is a research and outreach center located at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. The center partners with various public, private, state and national agencies to provide career management information and services for students, counselors, career advisors, administrators, and industry professionals. The center is nationally recognized for the high quality of its information and for its innovative efforts in the delivery of career information. Great website for students to begin exploring career options. They even have a GCIS Junior program for elementary and middle schoolers!*

# Medical and Health Care

**Georgia Medicaid:** <http://dch.georgia.gov/medicaid>

*To apply for any of these waivers in the Middle GA area, you must contact the Region 2 office to schedule an intake/evaluation. Call toll free at 877-551-4897.*

## **New Options Waiver Program (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)**

- The **NOW** Waiver Program enables individuals with less intense and urgent needs than out-of home residential treatment or extensive waiver services to live independently in the community. (Formerly known as the MRWP)
- The **COMP** Waiver Program is for individuals who need comprehensive and intensive services to live in the community.

**Contact:** Region 2 (Serves Middle GA) Phone: 706-792-7733 or 866-380-4835

## **SOURCE**

*Must be receiving SS, have a disability, and need minimal care.*

**Contact:** for Middle GA, Crossroads Community SOURCE (478) 224-6677

## **Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP)**

For ages 21-64. Provides an alternative for nursing home level of care for individuals with a disability that cannot care for themselves.

**Contact:** Georgia Medical Care Foundation 982-0411, ext. 3619.

## **Community Care Services Program (CCSP)**

CCSP provides home and community-based services to people who have a functional impairment or who have a disability. The program helps people remain in their own home, the home of a caregiver, or in other community settings as long as possible. Serves older adults and individuals with disabilities.

**Contact:** Area Agency on Aging: 888-548-1456 or 478-751-6160

**Georgia Pediatric Program (GAPP)** The GAPP Waiver program may provide services in medical day care settings to children who are medically fragile with multiple system diagnoses who meet an institutional level of care. Children receive services in their homes, communities, and in "medical" day care settings rather than in a nursing facility or hospital.

**Contact:** Professional Nursing Services: 478-628-5790

## **Community Based Alternatives for Youth**

**Contact:** 404-657-2103 or email [CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us)

*Community Based Alternatives for Youth (CBAY) provides home and community-based waiver services to individuals who would require PRTF level of care unless they receive similar support services at home. Ages 5-21 with an emotional behavior disorder.*

### **Katie Beckett Deeming Waiver**

Children under 19 with chronic medical conditions who meet the SSA disability criteria are eligible for the Katie Beckett Medicaid Program. Children must also meet the criteria for level of care provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or ICF/ID.

**Contact:** Right from the Start Medicaid Project 678-248-7449 (phone) Centralized Katie Beckett Medicaid Team 800-809-7276 (toll-free in Georgia) 5815 Live Oak Parkway, Suite D-2 678-248-7459 (fax) Norcross, GA 30093

### **Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT)**

**Contact:** Visit the website of the Children's Freedom Initiative at <http://www.georgiacfi.org> and view the "Resources" section.

The purpose of EPSDT is to ensure that all children who are eligible for Medicaid receive full and preventive health care. Among other things, EPSDT is intended to provide for early identification and treatment of conditions that may slow or harm the growth and development of children.

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### **CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES**

<http://dph.georgia.gov/CMS>

**Contact:** 1-800-300-9003

To ensure that there is a community-based, coordinated, family focused, culturally appropriate, comprehensive system of quality specialty health care services available for Georgia's children with chronic medical conditions from birth to 21 years of age who live in low income households.

### **FAMILY SUPPORT FUNDS**

These funds are provided for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities. The funds are provided through our local level/district. There is an IQ requirement.

**Bibb, Jones, Monroe, Crawford, Twiggs, and Peach:** Apply through River's Edge by calling 478-803-7665 OR Star Choices by calling 478-743-9801.

**Houston County:** Apply via The Phoenix Center 478-988-1002 ext. 102.

### **CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN through Easter Seals**

<http://www.championsforchildrenga.org/>

**Contact:** 1-866-584-3742

This program is designed to assist children and families who do not meet the eligibility criteria for the Katie Beckett Medicaid Waiver. Families must have an official denial letter in order to apply.



# Educational Supports and Tutoring

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## **School Districts**

Often times individual school districts will have a department that specifically deals with tutoring and/or after school programs. Check with your individual school and/or school district for tutoring or after school help.

## **(ESY) Extended School Year**

Extended School Year (ESY) is special education and/or related services that are provided beyond the normal school year. ESY is a required part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). ESY is provided according to a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) and is at no cost to the family. ESY can include academics, related services and extracurricular activities. Each district must provide ESY to students who need such services. All public schools, including charter schools and alternative schools, must provide ESY when it is needed. This decision and determination is made as a part of the student's IEP. For questions about this, speak with the student's Special Ed. Teacher or Special Ed. Director.

## **WYZANT Tutoring**

[www.wyzant.com](http://www.wyzant.com)

This is a website for parents to search for well qualified tutors to provide one-on-one services. The site is updated and secure.

## **MATHNASIUM**

<http://www.mathnasium.com>

Math tutoring. Log on to find a center near you.

## **SYLVAN**

<http://www.sylvanlearning.com>

Log on to find a site near you.

## **KUMON**

<http://www.kumon.com>

Log on to find a center near you

## **Paxen Learning Corporation**

<http://paxen.com/>

**Contact:** Middle GA 478-254-8287

Students ages 14 to 18 receive learning opportunities that encourage them to stay in school, earn their diplomas, and ultimately build better lives and livelihoods. Our career and life skills programs offer high-quality, hands-on training and personal attention via a customized curriculum and small-group and individualized instruction. We likewise provide out-of-school learners ages 18 to 21 with expert and individualized preparation in each of the five functional areas that together comprise the GED Tests®, as well as in key work-readiness skills. To find out if your school is participating or to find out how you can get this program into your school, contact the center or discuss with the student's school.



# Post-Secondary Options

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## **Disability Coordinators**

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

Once your child becomes a legal adult and graduates from the school system, the IEP is no longer applicable. Ensure your child also has a 504 plan in place; as this can transition with them onto a post-secondary school. It is very important for the student to connect with the Disability Coordinator at the college, university, technical school or other post-secondary institution in which they are applying. Disability Coordinators role is to assist those individuals with any type of disability to have the support, accommodations, or modifications needed to be successful.

## **Roosevelt Warm Springs**

<http://gvra.georgia.gov/warmsprings/vocational>

The Roosevelt Academy offers traditional vocational and life skills programming. Transition from high school to employment is a challenging experience for any student and even more so for students with a disability. The Roosevelt Academy assists students in developing work attitudes, personal characteristics, interpersonal skills, work behaviors, etc. to achieve success in the workplace. Roosevelt Academy curriculum is provided in classroom settings, group activities and on work sites. Completion of the Roosevelt Academy will support a student's readiness for employment and in some cases, readiness for advancement into the RWS Career and Technical Education program of study or post-secondary training in their local community. A student must have Voc. Rehab services in order to attend this program. If this is a path the student might be exploring, then connect with your VR Counselor while still in high school.

## **Georgia Center for Leadership and Disability**

**Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**

<http://disability.publichealth.gsu.edu/initiatives>

A wealth of information on statewide initiatives for students with disabilities transitioning to any type of post-secondary education - including the Inclusive Post-Secondary programs taking place across that state and country. There are programs now across the nation at universities for those students with more cognitive intellectual disabilities who still wish to experience the college life.

## **Think College!**

[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

A wonderful website to look into and bookmark! This site has a wealth of resources, supports, videos, and search engines for colleges. This website is entirely devoted to students with disabilities who are entering those transition years to life beyond high school.

**Georgia Career and Information Center**

<http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu/>

*Great website for career and college exploration.*

**MIDDLE GEORGIA POST SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS:**

- **Central GA Technical School**  
[www.centralgatech.edu/](http://www.centralgatech.edu/)
- **Fort Valley State University**  
[www.fvsu.edu](http://www.fvsu.edu)
- **Georgia College & State University**  
[www.gcsu.edu](http://www.gcsu.edu)
- **Georgia Military College**  
[www.gmc.cc.ga.us](http://www.gmc.cc.ga.us)
- **Gordon State College**  
[www.gordonstate.edu](http://www.gordonstate.edu)
- **Mercer University**  
<https://www.mercer.edu>
- **Middle Georgia State College**  
[www.mga.edu/](http://www.mga.edu/)
- **Wesleyan College**  
[www.wesleyancollege.edu/](http://www.wesleyancollege.edu/)
- **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**  
[www.abac.edu](http://www.abac.edu)

# State Offices

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## **Georgia Department of Education Special Education (Program for Exceptional Children)**

[www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org) (Note: Under the "ABC Search Site" scroll down and click Special Education.)

Debbie Gay, Director,

Special Education Services and Supports

**Contact:** Phone: (404) 656-3963

Fax: (404) 651-6457

Email: [dgay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:dgay@doe.k12.ga.us)

*The Division for Special Education Services and Supports includes programs and services that support local school districts in their efforts to provide special education and related services to students with disabilities. These services focus on enhancing student achievement and post-secondary outcomes through implementation of regional and statewide activities for students, families, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.*

## **The Georgia Special Needs Scholarship (GSNS) ~ also known as SB-10 Bill**

[www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org) (Note: Under the "ABC Search Site" scroll down and click Special Education. There is a link for the Special Needs Scholarship on that page.)

Linda Dunn, Ph.D.

Special Needs Scholarship Program

**Contact:** Fax: 770-344-4315 / No phone number provided on website

Email: [ldunn@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:ldunn@doe.k12.ga.us)

*This program is a school choice program available for special needs students attending Georgia public schools who are served under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). There are requirements, award amounts differ from student to student, and there are a variety of ways in which to utilize this bill.*

**For specific information about your District, contact your Special Education Director within your County School system.**

## **Additional Resources Enclosed in this Manual:**

- Transition To Life After High School Fact Sheet (Parent to Parent of Georgia)
- Transition Timeline Chart (Information taken from the workbook, "A Full Life ahead" by Judy Barclay & Jan Cobb)
- The Support Plan Comparison: IEP vs. 504 (The Goldberg Center for Educational Planning)
- High School vs. Post-Secondary Fact sheet (Legal Protection, Advocacy, and Individual Education Plans and Supports) (Information taken from Think College)