

BEST TRANSITION PRACTICES

INDEPENDENT LIVING ASSESSMENT

Las Cruces Public Schools

IDEA 2004 states that appropriate measurable secondary goals are to be based on age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment and, where appropriate, **independent living skills**.

The Las Cruces Public School District (LCPS) meets this IDEA requirement by providing an **Independent living Assessment** to Junior and Senior career readiness pathway students who are uncertain about living independently, have general concerns about their functional community skills, or whose exceptionality represents an independent living challenge. An **Independent Living Assessment** is the process of collecting data on individual strengths, needs, and preferences as they relate to future living and personal/social environments. Information on a student's independent living strengths and needs can serve as one of the focal points for the transition process and assists in identifying current independent living goals and services to be included in the IEP.

The **Independent Living Assessment** is curriculum focused and addresses the following areas:

- Expressed Independent Living interests
- Memory
- Adaptive living skills
- Adaptive living personality
- Learning style
- Community participation
- Assistive technology
- Transportation and travel skills
- Housing
- Social and Recreational
- Health and Safety
- Financial

The following formal and informal tools and techniques are used to obtain data for the LCPS **Independent Living Assessment**:

- Parent/Caregiver input
- Teacher input
- Student input
- Current diagnostic reports
- Psychometric Testing
- Behavior Observation

A comprehensive independent living report is generated for each student and contains the following:

- Transition to Independence Profile
- Independent Living Placement Level and environment
- Community and social living strengths and needs
- Independent living accommodations and supports

An **Independent Living Assessment** provides school transition personnel, the student, parents, NMDVR and community based human service programs with a Transition to Independence Profile (TIP) for the student. The TIP identifies items that should be addressed in the student's curriculum, or in an independent study situation, in order to enhance potential for successful self sufficiency and goal achievement. This profile supports future life planning and promotes a successful transition from school to work.

Information on the LCPS **Independent Living Assessment** can be requested from Mrs. June LeCrone (575-527-5910 – jlecrone@lcps.k12.nm.us) or Dr. Chris Graham (575-644-3962 – cgraham@lcps.k12.nm.us) or write to:

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