

Extension of Services for Students 21+

NYSED issued a June 18, 2020 memo encouraging schools and districts to extend services to students who turned 21 before the start of the 2020-21 school year due to the shifts to education and access to transition planning as a result of the pandemic. The NYCDOE is allowing students who would typically be aging out of school but are in need of continued education or support services in order to graduate with a diploma or to transition to adult programs and services to remain in school for the 2020-21 school year. Schools are asked to review the needs of every student 21 or older to determine what if any support is needed in accordance with the guidelines below. A parent can also initiate a request for extension of services through outreach to the school's principal.

The NYCDOE is delivering an extension of services in two ways: continued instruction or transition support consultancy services.

Continued Instruction for Students 21+

Students who participate in standardized assessment and are working toward a diploma and were unable to complete the credits needed in the 2019–20 school year due to the transition to remote learning as a result of the pandemic, but who would be able to if they were given up to one more year, will be invited back to continue school in the 2020–21 school year. This applies to all students with 33 or more credits, and other students at the discretion of the school, in order to provide the opportunity for the student to complete their credits and earn a high school diploma. The student must be reasonably expected to meet the requirements of a high school diploma by June 2021.

NYCDOE schools must inform parents by letter that students are eligible to return for an extension of instructional services by September 11, 2020 and inform their superintendent of their list of students by September 10, 2020. Where a parent is in agreement with their student remaining in school for up to an additional year, schools must enroll these students and program them appropriately in STARS for the courses needed in order to attain a high school diploma. Students remain active in all systems and should be re-enrolled if they had been previously discharged.

Students with IEPs who are alternately assessed who may have received a Skills and Achievement Commencement Credential (SAC) but who have missed instruction and/or services because of the transition to remote learning, and/or who are showing signs of regression and have not met their IEP goals, are also eligible to be invited to continue school during the 2020–21 school year. These students may be eligible to receive instruction and/or related services.

Students who do not have postsecondary plans in place, such as engagement with an adult day habilitation program, a vocational program, or an educational program, should be considered for extension of services if regression is present. All recommendations for extension of instruction

services for students who are working toward a SAC credential must be made by school personnel in collaboration with the parent after a review of progress monitoring information, other relevant data including loss of previously attained skills, and confirmation regarding postsecondary services. For students who attended extended school year (ESY), and Chapter 683, progress monitoring of IEP goals occurred by August 5, 2020.

Students who meet the criteria should be invited back and, if the parent accepts the invitation, enrolled in the appropriate educational program at the same school they had been attending through June or August 2020. These students remain active in all systems and should be re-enrolled if they had been previously discharged. IEPs should be reviewed and updated as needed through standard procedures.

Summary of School Steps:

1. Review list of students who are 21+ and who have not graduated with a diploma or met their IEP goals by August 2020.
2. Confirm list of students who are invited to return with your borough Transition and College Access Center (TCAC) or District 75 transition office if needed, contact information below.
3. Submit list to your superintendent by September 10, 2020.
4. Send [this letter](#) to identified parents by September 11, 2020.11, 2020.

State Approved Non-Public and Charter Schools will be encouraged to complete the steps above, in consultation with the Committee on Special Education (CSE), and extend services to students that are deemed eligible. State-Approved schools will be expected to self-fund any students that are found eligible to return.

Note: Only students whose IEPs continue to recommend transportation will be entitled to transportation.

[Transition Support Consultancy Services for Students 21+](#)

Students with IEPs who need to be connected with adult/postsecondary services or instruction but have otherwise completed school will be offered transition support consultancy services.

Transition support consultancy services are individualized services to meet the needs of the student, depending on their post-school goals. This includes:

- Assisting with eligibility for adult services through Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
- Intakes at adult service agencies
- Intakes at Adult Career and Continuing Educational Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) and/or other vocational programs
- College applications and supporting documents
- Any other connections or referrals that need to be made in order to ensure that the student will be engaged in the appropriate adult programs and services

Transition support consultancy services will end once post-school programs and services are secured or the parent decides that they are no longer necessary because they are securing the appropriate adult program or services for the young adult on their own.

Every effort should be made to continue to support a student’s linkage to an appropriate postsecondary program and/or services, per established transition goals, including for students who have been offered extension of instruction services. Review information to determine where students are in the process of determining OPWDD eligibility.

Establishing OPWDD eligibility is a critical first step toward accessing adult services for many students.

Steps in the process are listed in the chart below, along with whether the student should be invited back for extension of instruction services or offered transition support consultancy services.

OPWDD Services Status	Outcome
Awaiting appointment for evaluations; application for eligibility determination not yet complete; regression also present	Extension of educational services
Eligibility packet submitted to OPWDD; awaiting eligibility determination; regression also present	Extension of educational services
Eligibility approved; referred/connected to a Care Coordination Organization (CCO) but not connected to a provider and/or initiated any services	Transition support consultancy services
Eligibility approved; connected to a CCO, referred to postsecondary program/service but awaiting a program offer, program trial, or received an offer and awaiting a start date	Transition support consultancy services
Application submitted but eligibility denied	Transition support consultancy services

Transition support consultancy services will be provided by your borough Transition and College Access Center (TCAC) or the District 75 Office of Transition Services and Postsecondary Planning Initiatives. Contact information is as follows:

Borough	Email
Bronx TCAC	bxtcac@schools.nyc.gov
Brooklyn TCAC	bklyntcac@schools.nyc.gov
Manhattan TCAC	mntcac@schools.nyc.gov
Queens TCAC	qnstcac@schools.nyc.gov

Staten Island TCAC	sitcac@schools.nyc.gov
District 75 Office of Transition Services and Postsecondary Planning Initiatives	D75transition@schools.nyc.gov

Note: Transportation will not be available to or from transition support consultancy services. Metrocards will be provided by the TCAC or D75 office as needed.

Students who are receiving transition support consultancy services only, should **not** be active in ATS or SESIS.

While transition support consultancy services are being offered, each contact/outreach must be entered as an event in SESIS; the SESIS event log remains active after a student has been discharged. The event should indicate the date of the outreach, name of staff making outreach, to whom the outreach was made, purpose of the outreach, and the outcome and/or next steps. Outreach events should also include contact to agency and/or program contacts if the contact is needed to inform and/or secure postsecondary services.

Students that previously attended state-approved non-public schools are eligible for services at the TCAC. State-approved non-public schools will work with the CSE to arrange services at the TCACs.

Parents must be involved in postsecondary planning for their students and agree to any consultancy or extension of services.