

# State Services for the Blind

## Freshman Year of Transition Timeline

### Freshman Year Tasks

- **August**

- Discuss plans and goals with parents. Develop strategies with your family so you can increase your home responsibilities and gain greater independence.
- Learn the specific nature of your disability and how to explain it so others will understand your needs. Learn how to advocate for yourself and actively participate in your Individualized Education Program (IEP). Learn how to develop your transition plan, which is your plan to help you achieve your postsecondary goals with your case manager and IEP team.
- If possible, participate in a support group with other students with visual impairments to increase confidence and self-advocacy skills.
- Meet with your guidance counselor to be sure that you will have the credits you need to graduate on time with your peers.
- Work with your guidance counselor to explore college/training resources available in your

community. Explore career assessment and exploration options with your guidance counselor and visit your school career center.

- **September**

- Apply to services from Minnesota State Services for the Blind (SSB). After applying to SSB, invite SSB counselor to your annual IEP meeting. Discuss planning summer enrichment activities with SSB counselor.

- **October**

- Develop your academic independence by learning how to use your accommodations, assistive technology, and learning strategies- LEARN HOW TO LEARN! Continue to strengthen your basic skills in reading, math, and written language.
- Determine most effective reading and note taking system. Learn strategies to help you access course work comparable to that of your peers.

- **November**

- Become involved in school and community-based activities that interest you.

- **December**
  - Locate and memorize your Social Security Number. Apply for a photo ID with the Department of Motor Vehicles.
  
- **January**
  - Enroll in a high school class and try using digital texts instead of large print or braille books. Many college textbooks will only be accessible in digital format.
  - Begin determining and applying for testing accommodations on your own.
  
- **February**
  - Create and continue to add to your transition portfolio.
  
- **March**
  - Learn how to use the library and obtain materials to prepare a research paper.
  
- **April**
  - Talk to people in various professions to find out what they like and dislike about their jobs and what kind of education is needed for those jobs. Connect with a blind professional.

- Participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations.
- **May**
  - Coordinate job shadowing experiences (for the summer months) with your case manager or SSB counselor.
- **Summer**
  - Volunteer, babysit, mow lawns, walk dogs, etc. to gain some experience in leadership, responsibility and problem solving.