

## 18 – 21 year old services

An IEP team can make the determination that although a student has met requirements for graduation, continued special education services are needed.

“If the student has completed the required courses for graduation, but the IEP team determines the student still needs additional special education and related services, graduation would be delayed and the student can continue to receive the needed special education services on the IEP through the school year in which the student turns 21. Some students may require services until age 21 to meet IEP goals.”

Kansas Special Education Process Handbook pg. 8 - 1

There are some important things to be considered when making the determination to continue services beyond graduation requirements. Typically, if academic requirements have been met, the team will write goals and design services to build skills more vocational in nature. The team should decide on an appropriate goal to monitor progress on the job-related skills. The design for delivery of services should be tailored to meet the individual needs, and mostly likely will not reflect typical school-based services for a student working toward graduation requirement. Differences may include:

1. Location of services – job-sites, workshops programs, apprenticeships, job-shadowing and volunteer assignments in community locations
2. Length of day – time may reflect job shifts for part-time/full-time work
3. Level of support – independent, job-coaches, mentors, job-buddy
4. Involvement with other agencies - Guidance Center, Cottowood Inc., Community Living Organization, Independence Inc., Job Link, Vocational Rehabilitation

The primary purpose of continued services is to assist students in moving forward to become independent, productive members of their community reflective of their individual strengths and challenges.