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**What Do I Need To Know?** **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council**

**Overview: The Individuals with Disabilities Education and Improvement Act (IDEA) recognizes the autonomy of students, when students legally become adults. In Michigan this happens when a student turns 18, gets married, or becomes legally emancipated. It’s never too early to start teaching supported decision making skills to children. Starting early helps to prepare them for adult life. When students become adults, they can then express their choices in service provision. When the time comes, students have both, informal and formal options to consider.**

* **Students can learn more about**

**self-determination (Self- D)**

* **Students can ask that training on Self-D be written into their IEP**
* **Students can ask for resources on student led IEP’s**
* **Students can actively participate in IEP meetings**
* **Students can make a written request to keep parents or others they trust involved**

**Things Parents Can Do:**

**There are some things that immediately change, but a parent can still be involved at many levels without guardianship.**

* **Parents can continue an open line of communication with the student**
* **Parents can, with the student’s permission, review school records**
* **Parents can file a complaint on behalf of the student**
* **Parents can attend the IEP meetings, at the invitation of the student or the school**

**Things Students Can Do:**

**Even adults, do not make important decisions without talking to their parents, friends and others that know them well. The student and their family can still work together as critical transition team members after parental rights transfer to the student as an adult. The difference will be that the student will have the final decision-making authority. Below are a couple of ideas to consider:**

* **Learn more about self-determination**
* **Ask that training be written into your IEP**
* **Ask for resources on student led IEP’s**
* **Actively participate in your IEP meetings**
* **Make a written request to keep your parents or other trusted person involved**

**Things Students Can Do:**

**Things Parents Can Do:**

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**For information or questions contact the Developmental Disabilities Council at: (517) 335-3158, or on the web at: www.michigan.gov/ddcouncil**

**Transfer of Parental Rights**

**The transfer of parental rights is required in IDEA. The school district must provide notice of this transfer at least one year before a student turns 18. They must also provide:**

* **A copy of the MDE Notice of Procedural Safeguards at the IEP meeting closest to your 17th birthday**
* **A statement in the students IEP that the family has been informed on the transfer of parental rights**