

# 10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HIGH SCHOOL & TRANSITION

By Heather from *A Love for Special Learning*

## **#1- No grades**

- Since students have met the graduation requirements, there are no need for grades. Curriculum and experiences are based solely on IEP goals and preparing young adults to achieve a smooth transition to their post exit life.

## **#2- No bells**

- Best practice is to have transition programming outside the high school setting. The lack of bells (and availability of buses) allows for more flexibility and autonomy in the schedule.

## **#3- Meaningful job site experience**

- Getting to go into the community and practice job skills along side real managers, co-workers, and customers allows for valuable learning that simply can't be replicated in a structured school setting.

## **#4- Meaningful bank practice**

- Real checking accounts, real debit cards, real money. Learn how my program created and uses [real student checking accounts at a local bank here!](#)

## **#5- Future focused**

- Time starts to tick once a young adult enters transition and practicing for the 'real life' is the true focus, making every lesson and outing that much more meaningful and valuable.

## **#6- Community access and interactions**

- With no bells, community job sites and the flexibility to go into the community each day, young adults start to see the same people and form natural connections with others.

## **#7- Functional IEP goals**

- Academically-focused IEP goals have ended with senior year, and now the focus turns to practicing skills for post transition life (the most meaningful of all!)

## **#8- Calmer IEP meetings**

- In my experience, families tend to be less stressed about accommodations, modifications, grades, standardized tests, and aide supports, resulting in a much calmer IEP meeting.

## **#9- Preparing families for long term**

- It takes YEARS to help families get set up with the [funding, services, and supports](#) they need to be successful after exit, so these highly important conversations start year 1!

## **#10- Dedicated recreation leisure time**

- Having time dedicated in the schedule for recreation leisure, in building or in the community, might be one of the best ways to prepare young adults for the future.

*\*This list reflects my experience in my own school district program. If this doesn't reflect what you currently experience, consider seeking answers and advocating for what you feel is right for your young adult students.*