

Making the Move Transitions to a New School

Information and tips for a seamless and
manageable move to Junior High & High School

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Looking Ahead



- Your Child will soon be attending a new school.
- You will have lots of questions and will wonder what other questions to ask.
- The transition can be overwhelming and emotional for both the parent and child.
- This presentation will help guide you and offer suggestions for important questions to ask.

Ask for a copy of
or find on the
school website:

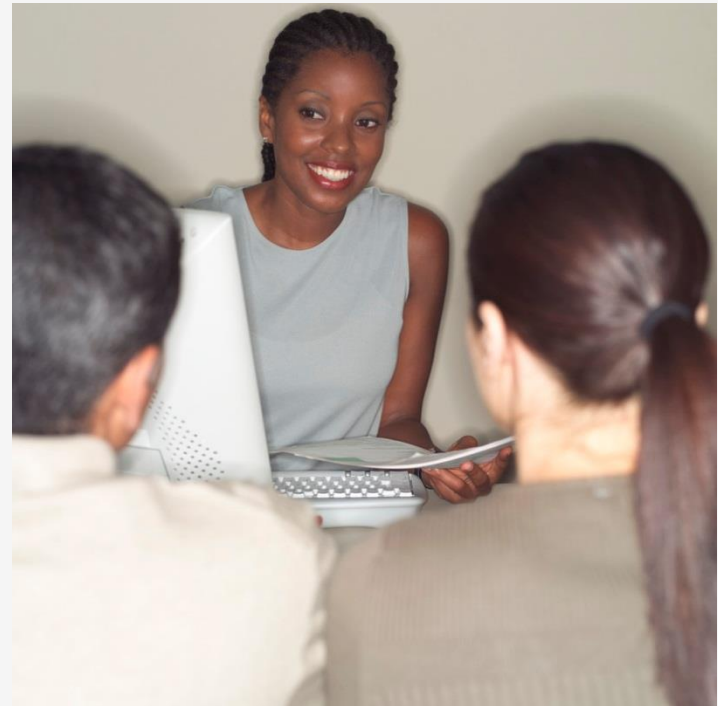
- the school handbook
- course offerings
- schedule of activities
- district curriculum

Gather Information about the new school



- In January, schedule a brief appointment with your child's future case manager and introduce yourself and briefly explain your child's special needs.
- Indicate your willingness to partner with the school to help your child succeed.

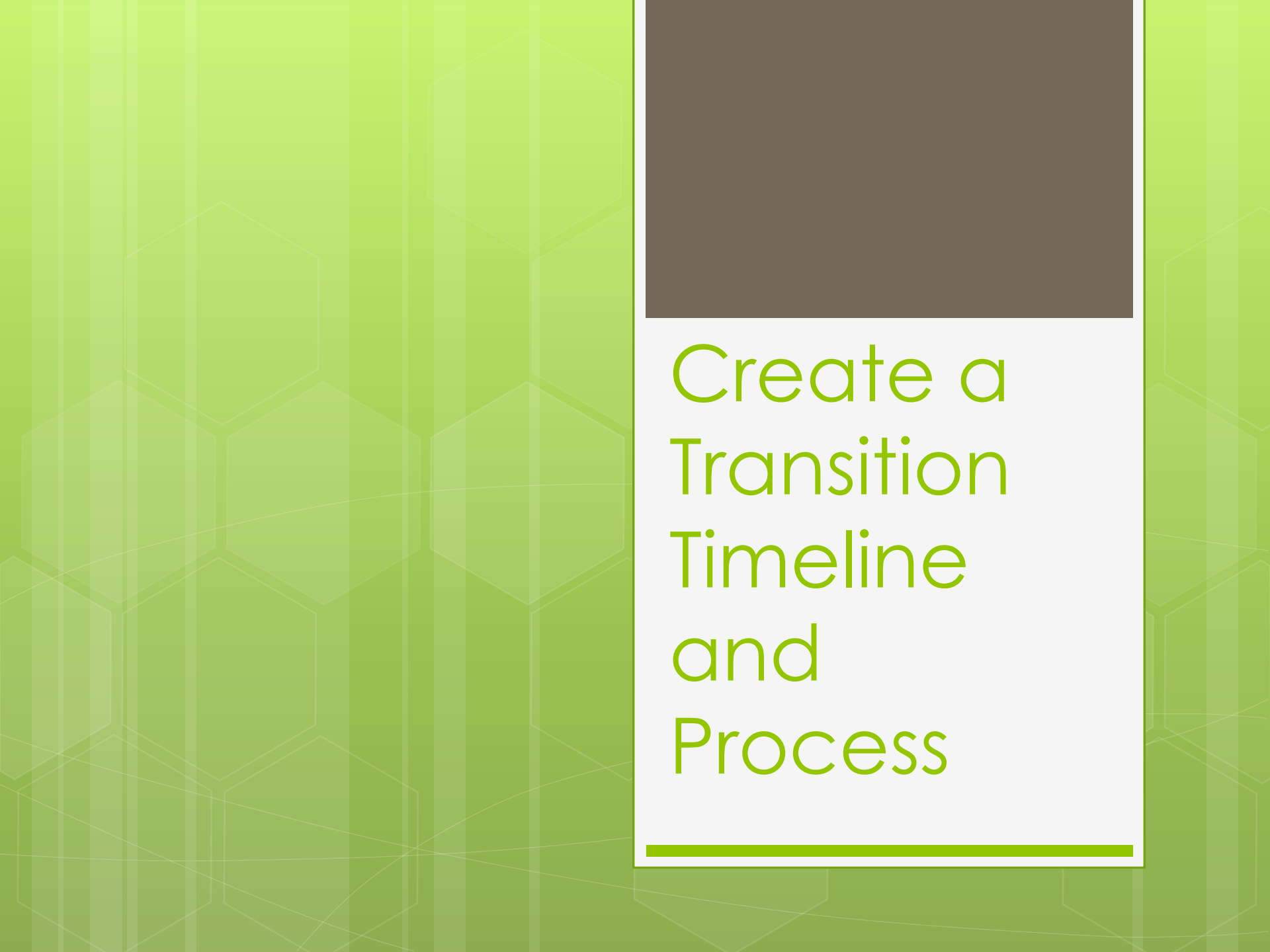
Gather Information about the new school.....



- Talk with parents whose child currently attends the school.
- You can gain useful information from parents that have children receiving Special Education Services and from those who don't.

Gather Information about the new school.....





Create a
Transition
Timeline
and
Process

The Language of the New School

- Begin to incorporate the “language” of the new school into lessons at least one year prior to transitioning.
- Lessons could be included in daily projects or assignments, art projects, writing assignments etc.
- Speech and Language therapy can include the articulation of the new school name, new teachers names, various names of new school rooms, “specials” etc.

Language of the new school to consider

- Lunch room, Cafeteria, cafetorium, Titan Café'
- P.E., Gym Class, Recess, Strength and Conditioning, Cougar Coliseum
- Nurses office, Health Care Center
- Para, Aide, Teachers Assistant
- Ask staff of new school to suggest new school "language".

Arrange a Visit to the New School

- Arrange multiple visits to the new school at various times and in various situations; with his current class, with his current teachers, with his parents, when students are in the building, when students are not in the building, during the lunch hour, eating lunch with a student, tour from a current student, during bus/van drop off etc.
- Provide exposure to all the sights and sounds of the new school.
- Note “Language” of new school that you observe while visiting.



Develop IEP with new school in mind

- Consider new school subjects when developing IEP goals. Chorus, Science, Literature, History, Band, PE, Art, Electives
- Knowing the district school curriculum for the grade your student will be entering will offer ideas for IEP goals.
- How will assistive technology be incorporated?
- What support and services will be needed to gain access to the grade level curriculum? Who will be responsible for the adaptations and modifications?

Schedule a Transition Meeting with the current Special Education Staff and the New Staff

- Review IEP Goals and discuss how they will be addressed at the new school.
- Share success and failures and best approaches used to instruct your student.
- Discuss student behavior expectations and plans if applicable.
- Discuss Student's learning styles.



- Video should include teachers instructing in the classroom, students in the hallways, the tone or bell used to indicate day end or class changes, the busy lunch room, PE class, the drop off/pick up, etc. so your child can become familiar with their new surrounds.
- Offer to make the video yourself if the staff is too busy.
- Have a current student take your child on a video tour.
- Have the video available for your child to view at least 6 months prior to the start of the new school year.
- View the video often with your child.

Request a Video of the Sights and Sounds of the New School



- Practice going from class to class over the summer.
- Design a picture schedule that includes teachers pictures for each different class or “Special”.
- Request locker combination so the student can practice without distractions over the summer.

Obtain the students schedule prior to the end of the school year



Mrs. Qualls Class Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45 - 8:25	Morning Work/ Attendance/Eye on En- gineering News Show	Morning Work/ Attendance/Eye on En- gineering News Show	Morning Work/ Attendance/Eye on En- gineering News Show	Morning Work/ Attendance/Eye on En- gineering News Show	Morning Work/ Attendance/Eye on En- gineering News Show
8:25 - 9:35	Everyday Calendar Math	Everyday Calendar Math	Everyday Calendar Math	Everyday Calendar Math	Everyday Calendar Math
9:35 - 10:20	Guided Reading	Guided Reading	Guided Reading	Guided Reading	Guided Reading
10:20 - 10:45	Working with Words	Working with Words	Working with Words	Working with Words	Working with Words
10:45 - 11:50	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
11:50 - 11:55	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:55 - 12:20	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:20 - 12:50	Restroom Break	Restroom Break	Restroom Break	Restroom Break	Restroom Break
12:50 - 1:15	Social Studies/Science/ Engineering	Social Studies/Science/ Engineering	Social Studies/Science/ Engineering	Social Studies/Science/ Engineering	Social Studies/Science/ Engineering
1:15 - 2:00	Art	PE	Music	Robotics	Robotics
2:00 - 2:30	Self-Selected Reading	Self-Selected Reading	Self-Selected Reading	Self-Selected Reading	Self-Selected Reading
2:30 Dismissal					



- Have the Student meet the teachers before the Back to School night.
- Have the student deliver to each teacher “Get to Know Me” book.
- Discuss health and hygiene needs with the school nurse.
- Go over first week of school “game plan”.

Arrange a Visit Two weeks prior to the Start of the New School Year



Get to Know Me Book

- A quick and concise book about the student to expedite the get-to-know-you stage of the transition.
- Include lots of pictures. Pictures speak louder than words. Eye catching and attractive.
- Include a parent statement that indicates long term goal for your student.
- Include parent contact information.
- Use a bright cover for so the bookstands out in the pile of desk papers.





Suggested Questions Parents Should Ask When Visiting Your New School

- Who will be your child's case manager?
- Can I have a list of the teachers that will be working with my child and their contact information?
- How will my child access his locker? Will the combination lock be modified if necessary? Who do I contact to get the combination and locker assignment to practice over the summer?



- Can I have a list of key staff that my child can go to for help? (School nurse, school secretary, principal, counselor) Can I have pictures of each of them?
- What is the lunch procedure? With whom will my student eat lunch?
- Are accommodations available for my student to participate in extracurricular activities?



- How will independence be promoted? How will “Learned Helplessness” be avoided? Will my student be afforded the “Dignity of Risk?”
- How will school to home communication be handled?
- What is the bussing/transportation plan or drop off/pick up procedure?



- What accommodations and support will be available to assist my child when changing clothes for PE class if necessary. How will PE lock be modified if needed?
- How will assistive technology be incorporated in my student's lessons throughout the day?
- How much Para Professional involvement will occur and who trains and guides these staff members?

The Key to a Manageable and Pleasant Transition is to take Action and Plan Early!

