



ATTENTION STUDENT

Reaching the Age of Majority

When you turn 18, according to Michigan laws, you reach the age of majority. You are then considered an adult. Another law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, requires that if you are a student with and IEP at age 18, all rights and responsibilities covered by this law are transferred to you as an adult student. The only reason why this would not happen is if the court has given you a guardian.

Every year you will meet with your schools team to develop a program of services and transition called your Individualized Education Program (IEP). Your parents have been doing this with you for several years, but now you will have a new role as a young adult. It is now your own responsibility to speak for yourself and to make decisions about your school services.

It is mandatory that parents receive a “Parent Handbook” describing what special education services are, how services are delivered in our county, and the Procedural Safeguards available. When you turn 17, it is required that you be informed about these same services.

For more information, visit the Berrien RESA website at www.berrienresa.org.

New Responsibilities:

Along with your new rights, come new responsibilities. In order for all this to work there are some things that you need to do:

- **Follow timelines** ~ if you need to respond to the school, you will be told in writing. Don't miss deadlines because they are very important.
- **Have goals and ideas** ~ you will want to build a good school program on them.
- **Get the support that you need** ~ if you need help reading letters that are sent to you or help in understanding information ... ASK SOMEONE that you trust.
- **Tell people about yourself, your ideas, and post-school goals** ~ you are an adult member of the team.
- **Take time to listen** ~ people will tell you about your strengths and abilities. This can help you and your team to work together to make appropriate decisions about your future.
- **Learn about your learning differences** ~ learn what helps you to be the most successful in school, as well as, in life. Listen to what types of accommodations help you the most.
- **Disagreement is OK** ~ work with your team to solve any concerns. The solutions are there.
- **Be your own advocate** ~ get to know yourself and teach others.

Congratulations on Reaching the Age of Majority!