Minnesota Department of Education

Potential Age-Appropriate Assessment Tools (2014)

The Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) defines transition assessment as an "ongoing process of collecting data on the individual's strengths, needs, preferences and interests as they relate to the demands of current and future working, educational, living, and personal and social environments". "age-appropriate" means a student's chronological rather than developmental age (Wehmeyer, 2002).

During grade nine, the IEP shall address the student's needs for transition from secondary services to postsecondary education and training, employment, and community living. To appropriately evaluate and plan for a student's secondary transition, additional IEP team members may be necessary and may include vocational education staff members and other agency representatives as appropriate.

Formal and informal transition assessments should:

- Provide relevant information about the student in relation to employment, postsecondary education and training, home living, community participation and recreation and leisure areas for transition planning;
- Provide a basis for the student's measurable postsecondary goals; and
- Provide a basis for measurable annual IEP goals.

Informal assessment consists of gathering existing information on a student, and reviewing and compiling that data to make decisions about future goals. This information may include:

- Interviews or questionnaires;
- Direct observations;
- Anecdotal records;
- Environmental or situational analysis;
- Curriculum-based assessments;
- Interest inventories; and
- Transition planning inventories.

Formal assessments are performed by trained personnel and can include:

- Adaptive behavior or independent living assessments;
- Aptitude tests,
- Interest assessments,

- Intelligence tests;
- Learning style inventories;
- Personality and preference tests;
- Career development measures;
- On –the-job or training evaluations;
- Measures of self-determination.

What kind of information can be gathered for age-appropriate transition assessments?

- Functional life skills;
- Reasoning and problem-solving skills;
- Learning styles;
- Communication skills;
- Self-awareness and self-advocacy skills;
- Assistive Technology checklist;
- Transferable skills;

Students must have their strengths, interests and preferences determined. Here are some examples of what those are.

- **Perceptual skills:** ability to judge where, how, and if things fit together.
- **Interpersonal skills:** attitude, cooperation, teamwork, and communication skills.
- **Work aptitudes:** ability to remember and follow instructions and procedures; ability to plan, organize, and improve with practice.
- **Work behaviors:** ability to concentrate and stay on a task and ability to remain motivated.
- **Interests:** personal goals and interests, hobbies, leisure-time activities, academics, and favorite and least-favorite subjects.
- **Cognitive skills:** reading and math skills, concept formation, thinking style, and problem solving abilities.
- **Motor skills:** using one's hands, eye/hand coordination, fine motor skills, and mobility.

Examples of Potential Formal (F) and Informal (I) Age-Appropriate Assessments:

This list is meant to be used as a guide and is not inclusive of the wide range of age appropriate assessment tools).

Name of Instrument	Description	Link	Fee	F/I
Adaptive Behavior Assessment System-Second Edition (ABAS)	A complete assessment of adaptive skills functioning.	http://pearsonassessments.com/HAIWEB/Cultures/enus/Productdetail.htm?Pid=015-8004-507&Mode=summary	YES	F
Ansell Casey Life Skills Assessment	Addresses work/study habits; money management; self-care; social development; daily living tasks; housing and community resources.	http://www.caseylifeskills.org/	NO	F
Ashland Interest Assessment	Written at the grade three reading level.	http://www.sigmaassessmentsystems.com/assessments/aia.asp	YES	F
Brigance Transition Skills Inventory (TSI)	The TSI assess daily living or career and job-seeking skills to help students transition from high school to community.	http://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/detail.asp?title=BrigTSI&topic=CSPE0	YES	F
Career Exploration Inventory	Interest levels in 15 career clusters.	http://www.jist.com	YES	I
Career Game/Red Hot Job	Measures students' career exploration skills.	http://www.careergame.com/07-workbooks.htm	YES	I
Career One Stop	Career information and choices on high growth industries and high demand occupations for varying levels of education or training.	http://www.careeronestop.org/	NO	I
Career Scope	CareerScope® Online enhances the career and educational planning process. This software works over the Internet to measure both interest and aptitude through valid and reliable career assessment tasks.	http://www.vri.org/products/career-scope-online/benefits	YES	F

Name of Instrument	Description	Link	Fee	F/I
Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS)	CASAS contains a variety of instruments to measure functional reading, math, listening, speaking, and higher order thinking skills in everyday adult life and work contexts.	https://www.casas.org/workforce-development	YES	F
Checklist of Adaptive Living Skills (CALS)	Measures Personal Home, Community and Employment Skills.	http://www.riverpub.com/products/cals/index.html	YES	F
COP System Picture Inventory of Careers (COPS-PIC)	The COPS-PIC provides a job interest score using pictures only, yielding measurement of the 14 COP System clusters for non-readers.	http://careerlifeskills.com/copsystem-24/cops-pic-118/cops-pic-picture-inventory-of-careers-handscoring-keys-11-1204.html	YES	F
Enderle-Severson Transition Rating Scale	Transition Rating Scales	http://www.estr.net/	YES	F
Harrington-O'Shea Career Decision-Making System (Revised)	Self-scored career planning assessment of abilities, interests and work values.	http://www.ippbooks.com/store/career-decision-making-system-revised-harrington-oshea.html	YES	F
Inventory for Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)	Measures Motor skills, personal living skills, community living skills, social and communication skills, and broad independence as well as eight categories of maladaptive behavior.	http://www.riverpub.com/products/icap/index.html	YES	F
It's My Choice	iTransition is a free, online transition curriculum to help students who are deaf or hard of hearing prepare for life after high school.	http://www.pepnet.org/itransition.asp	NO	I
JIST	A variety of tools: Career and Life Explorer, Barriers to Success Inventory, ONet.	http://jist.mw.net/shop/home	YES	I

Name of Instrument	Description	Link	Fee	F/I
Job Observation and Behavior Scale: Opportunity for Self-Determination (JOBS-OSD)	Three JOBS:OSD subscales include 30 items, which represent critical patterns of performance in work-related daily living skills, behavior and job duties.	http://www.commercecorner.com/stoelting/productlist13c.aspx?catid=2218&home=Psychological		
Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS)	Minnesota specific career exploration assessment, curriculum, and tools.	http://mncis.intocareers.org/	YES	I
Minnesota Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge (ISEEK)	Minnesota's gateway to career, education, employment, and business information.	http://www.iseek.org/sv/index.jsp	NO	I
NEXT™ Transition Skills System	A process of identifying, teaching, and tracking essential transition skills over multiple years.	http://store.ablenetinc.com/next/	YES	I
OASIS-3:IS - Occupational Aptitude Survey and Interest Schedule — Third Edition	The OASIS-3 Interest Schedule measures 12 interest factors directly related to the occupations listed in the Guide of Occupational Exploration. Occupations include Artistic, Scientific, Nature, Protective, Mechanical, Industrial, Business Detail, Selling, Accommodating, Humanitarian, Leading-Influencing, and Physical Performing.	http://www.proedinc.com/customer/productView.aspx?ID=2304		
O'Net Interest Profiler	The O*NET Interest Profiler has 60 questions about work activities that people do on their jobs.	http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip	NO	I
Pictorial Inventory of Careers (PIC)	The Digital Pictorial Inventory of Careers, which requires no reading. Live Action Videos of real life work scenes, instead of paper pencil tests.	http://www.talentassessment.com/pages/PIC/	YES	I

Name of Instrument	Description	Link	Fee	F/I
Reading Free Vocational Interest Inventory 2	Newly revised. Uses pictures of individuals engaged in different occupations to measure the vocational likes and dislikes.	http://www.creativeorgdesign.com/tests_page.htm?id=202&title=ReadingFree_Vocational_Interest_Inventory_Revised_Individual	YES	F
Responsibility and Independence Scale for Adolescents (RISA)	Measures skills such as Money Management, Citizenship, Personal Planning, Transportation Skills, Career Development, Self-Management, Social Maturity, and Social Communication.	http://www.riversidepublishing.com/products/risa/index.html	YES	F
Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R)	Provides a comprehensive assessment of 14 areas of adaptive behavior and 8 areas of problem behavior.	http://www.riverpub.com/products/sibr/	YES	F
Social Skills Improvement System Rating Scales	Evaluates social skills, behaviors, and academic skills.	http://www.pearsonassess.ca/haiweb/Cultures/en-CA/Products/Product+Detail.htm?CS_ProductID=SSIS&CS_Category=educational-behaviour&CS_Catalog=TPC-CACatalog	YES	F
Supports Intensity Scale(SIS)	Assessment tool that evaluates practical support requirements of a person with an intellectual disability. Available in print and electronic formats.	http://www.siswebsite.org/cs/product_info	YES	F
Ten Sigma	Targeting Transition is an evidence-based program that provides practical materials enhance transition success.	http://www.tensigma.org/	YES	I
Transition Behavior Scale	Standardized tool that measures Work Related, Interpersonal Relations, and Social/Community Expectations.	http://hawthorne-ed.com/pages/transition/t2.html	YES	F

Name of Instrument	Description	Link	Fee	F/I
Transition Planning Inventory (TPI)	An instrument for identifying and planning for the comprehensive transitional needs of students.	http://www.proedinc.com/customer/productView.aspx?ID=875	YES	F
The Wiesen Test of Mechanical Aptitude	The WTMA measures basic ability rather than formal schooling or job experience. It uses pictures and simple sentences to ask questions about everyday objects and situations.	http://www.aprtestingservices.com/business/wtma/	YES	I
Work Keys	Work Keys tests skills in problem solving, communication, and teamwork.as well as in eight foundational skills.	http://www.act.org/workkeys	YES	F
Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales	Standardized tool that measures personal and social skills used for everyday living.	http://ags.pearsonassessments.com/group.asp?nGroupInfoID=a3000	YES	F