

How does the Wait List work?

Special education services up to the age of 21 or until a high school diploma is awarded is an entitled service. **After graduation or turning 21, services are no longer guaranteed or mandated.** There is no guarantee that long term funding for adult services will be available when your son/daughter turns 21, however there are some things that you can do to help advocate for services.

How does the Wait list work?

- Each area agency submits an annual operating budget that supports existing services based on funds allocated by the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS). BDS receives allocated funds from the state legislators and the Governor.
- Each person requesting long term supports through Gateways, is placed on a Wait list. The Wait List is sent to BDS on a quarterly basis, making them aware of how many people statewide are potentially in need of services.

What can you do to advocate?

- Advocate staying in school until you have completed a transition plan that prepares your son/daughter for adult life and learn about different resources available in your area.
- Contact your Family Support Service Coordinator (FSSC) on a monthly basis to ensure they are aware of your son/daughters future service needs, including graduation plans.
- Include your FSSC to be an active part of the school planning team.
- Provide your FSSC with all current evaluations (within three years)
- Verify that your son/daughters name is on the wait list at age 19.
- Contact your local representative to the legislature.
 1. Inform the representative of anticipated needs and what will happen if funding is not available to provide services for your son/daughter.
 2. Ask your legislator to support funding the wait list.
 3. Attend hearings whenever possible.

Ask your FSSC to add your name to the Legislative News Letter and to inform you of any legislative action steps, i.e., testifying at hearings or meetings around wait list issues.

If you are unsure of who your legislator is you can contact your FSSC or check on line at: <http://www.gencourt.state.ne.us/ie/whosmyleg/>.