

Transition Recovery Services Funding for Students with Disabilities who are 21

Questions & Answers

Q1. What guidance is available to support schools and districts in providing transition recovery services to eligible students?

A1. If a student's IEP team determines and documents that a student needs transition recovery services, these services must be provided as part of FAPE. Once these services are determined to be needed then the next question is how to provide transition recovery services and what funding is available to support the delivery of those services (Q2-Q10). The intent of transition recovery services is to make up services from the time of the pre-COVID IEP that were missed during the COVID time period, not to create new opportunities or add new pathways.

Transition recovery services are additional transition services for students with IEPs and are intended to:

- Address lack of reasonable progress on IEP goals or the IEP Transition Plan
- Address missed or limited special education or related services
- Support students to achieve expected levels of progress towards their post-secondary goals (as indicated in the IEP Transition Plan and High School and Beyond Plan)

The type, amount, and timing of transition recovery services should be an individualized decision made by the IEP team based on student data. Transition recovery service decisions are not to be based on staffing or funding availability. Not all students will require a full additional year of transition services.

To support the implementation of transition recovery services, the state legislature provided funding for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years for students who turned age 21 in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years and meet the funding eligibility criteria outlined in Q2.

Districts are encouraged to work with families and students to individually determine transition recovery service needs. The guidance on the topic of transition recovery services is listed below:

- [Washington's Roadmap for Special Education Recovery Services: 2021 & Beyond](#)
OSPI developed this document to support IEP teams with determining recovery services needed for students with disabilities due to the impact of COVID-19.
- Webinar for Schools and District Partners: Secondary Transition Services | [Recording](#) | [Presentation slides](#) *Posted 5/20/21*



- Family Information Session: Secondary Transition Services| [Recording](#) | [Presentation slides](#) Posted 6/3/21
- [Questions and Answers: Provision of Services to Students with Disabilities during COVID-19 in the 2020-21 School Year](#)
 - Section B addresses recovery services.
 - Section B-3 specifically addresses transition recovery services.

Q2. Who is eligible to be claimed for transition recovery services funding?

A2. An eligible student is one that meets the following requirements¹:

- Was eligible for special education services at the time they aged out and turned age 21 during the 2019-20 or 2020-21 school years. This means the student no longer qualifies to be claimed by a district on the monthly P223 or P223H.
 - For transition recovery services claimed for July 2021 and August 2021, was 21 years old as of September 1, 2020.
 - For transition recovery services claimed for the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, was 21 years old as of September 1, 2021,
- Has not graduated with a regular diploma, and
- Requires and is receiving transition recovery services as determined by the student's IEP team.

It is important to note that students who turned 21 after September 1, 2021 would not be eligible to receive state transition recovery services funding but may still be determined to need transition recovery services by the IEP team. See question 10 for information about other funding sources that may be available.

Q3. How will the transition recovery services funding for students with disabilities who are 21 be operationalized?

A3. The funding allocated for transition recovery services for students who are 21 years old are fixed amounts in the biennial budget. OSPI has capped the amount of funds each district is eligible to receive. Districts will claim funds by reporting monthly enrollment count through the OSPI Smartsheet tool located [HERE](#) (see Q3) until cap is reached. OSPI will re-evaluate spending near the end of school year 2021-22 and will establish updated payment rates or caps, if needed, for SY 2022-23. This document will be updated to reflect any changes for the SY 2022-23.

¹ See page 399-400 of the [Legislative Proviso](#)

Q4. How will enrollment be reported for funding?

A4. Transition recovery services funding for students who are 21 years old will be reported monthly as a headcount based on the first school day of the month. Beginning with July 2021 and until August 2023, districts will submit a headcount for students who were enrolled in the district on the first day of the month and have met the requirements to be an eligible student (see Q2), and has received transition recovery services in the prior month. Districts will report their count through the OSPI Smartsheet tool located [HERE](#). Each monthly count is due to OSPI by the 15th calendar day. Funding will be allocated in that month's apportionment. Districts must retain documentation to support their transition recovery services count.

Q5. When can districts start claiming students for this funding?

A5. July 2021 is the first month that student enrollment can be reported. July 2021 apportionment will be the first month that funds will be available. Funding is based on a biennial appropriation and is available for SY 2021-22 and SY 2022-23 within established CAPs.

Q6. How will the monthly allocation be calculated?

A6. The transition recovery services funding will be allocated based on a 10-month average of the 12 months reported. For each student headcount reported, a 0.10 annual average headcount (AAHC) [$1 \div 10$] is calculated.

Allocation will be based on each district's special education BEA rates. The district will receive 0.10% of this rate for every student claimed that month in their monthly apportionment.

Q7. Is there a limit to how many months an eligible student can be claimed?

A7. No. An eligible student can be claimed for 12 months of the school year and is not limited to 1.0 AAHC or 10 months. Students receiving transition recovery services for 12 months would be a 1.20 AAHC [$12 \div 10$].

Reminder, a student's IEP team makes an individualized decision regarding transition recovery services and thus a student may not need a full year or may need more than a year of recovery services. See Q1.

Q8. What revenue code in the apportionment payment and accounting process will be assigned to these funds?

A8. Revenue code 4121-03 for state funds and code 6123-03 for federal funds.

Q9. How much funding is available for this purpose?

A9. The state budget provides \$5 million in state funds and \$7 million in federal funds in state fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022). There is an additional \$12 million of state funds available in state fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023).

The available funding for 2022-2023 will be reevaluated and communicated near the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Q10. What other funding sources are available to support the cost of providing transition recovery services?

A10. Students could continue to be eligible to be claimed for transition recovery service funding in 2022-23 if the student's IEP team determines transition recovery services are need and the student met the eligibility requirements to access transition recovery service funding outlined in Q2. To be claimed for state transition recovery funds a student would need to be eligible and turned 21 years old as of September 1, 2021.

For a student that turns 21 after Sept. 1, 2021 (during the 2021-22 school year), state transition recovery funding is not available, but this is not the only funding option.

If students are determined to need transition recovery services by an IEP team, these services must be provided regardless of funding available. There are many different funding sources that can support with funding recovery supports such as CARES Act, ESSER Funds I, II, & III or IDEA funds to districts or State special education funds to districts.

Please direct any questions on transition recovery services to the OSPI Special Education Office by sending an email to speced@k12.wa.us or placing a call to (360)725-6075. If you have a fiscal question on transition recovery services please send an email to speced.fiscal@k12.wa.us.