

PRESS RELEASE

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Parents & teens with disabilities explore life through and beyond high school

- What kind of job do you want?
- Where will you live?
- How will you get around?
- Will you go to college or trade school?
- Who can you ask for help?

These are the kinds of questions that organizers hope to help parents and teens with disabilities answer during a FREE “Transition Planning 101” workshop to be held at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD) on Friday, April 17, 2009, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Presenters Carolyn Smith-Gerdes and Cari Keever from the MAISD Special Education Department will provide information about life through and beyond high school. Parent representatives from each school district, whose children receive special education services, will be on-hand as well to answer questions and offer their help. Topics include how to pursue further education, get involved in the community, obtain employment, and live independently. They will also share information about agencies that can help teens make their transition a smooth one. Parents and teens will learn what plans need to be made now, and what the school, parent, and student are responsible for. They will also learn about assessments that will help guide student choices. Parents will learn how to match the student’s “Transition Plan” to the “Educational Development Plan” created by the student and his or her school. Parents must register by Thursday, April 16, 2009, by calling Judy Efting at 231-766-2954 or e-mailing info@muskegonautism.org.

The workshop is being sponsored by the Autism Network of Muskegon County in partnership with the MAISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC). The Autism Network’s mission is to provide support and resource connections including providing education regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders, a list of professional and financial resources that are available within the county, and moral and emotional support to members and families. To learn more visit www.muskegonautism.org.

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