



TENNESSEE
DISABILITY PATHFINDER

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

**CONNECTING CLASSROOMS
TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**



TENNESSEE DISABILITY PATHFINDER

FOR EDUCATORS

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder (“Pathfinder”) helps people with disabilities, their family members, the community, and professional support partners find and access resources, support, and services available to meet their needs.

Information and Referrals: (800) 640-4636 or tnpathfinder@vumc.org

- One-on-one assistance to connect people to appropriate community resources.
- Staff includes professionals, family members, and individuals with disabilities that have many years of experience working in the disability-field.
- Help people navigate the system by providing them insight about how to access the services.

Website: TNPathfinder.org

- Online Directory of Resources updated regularly
- Statewide Community Calendar to find local disability-related activities
- Digital media: e-newsletter, flyers, and archived webinars

Education and Training:

Innovative training provided in person and virtually on the following subjects:

- Finding Community Services Using Pathfinder
- Improving Communication for Broader Engagement: Disability Etiquette and Plain Language
- Supporting All Communities
- Accessing Community Resources

Community Support Coordination:

Aims to remove barriers that communities of various backgrounds and languages encounter

- Bilingual Staff (English<>Spanish) and Interpreter Services for all other languages
- Case Management Assistance
- Training Presentations in Spanish

HOW CAN TN DISABILITY PATHFINDER BE USED IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING?

Finding Help for Students, Families, and Educators
Beyond the School Doors:



Support services outside of the school environment



Resources to prepare students for life after school



Information about waiver programs, community resources, and support

Training for family members or other educators



Community events to learn and connect



Connecting you with other agencies/supports



Streamlining the way you find resources

EXAMPLES OF TN DISABILITY PATHFINDER IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING

Help students learn more about their disability, increase self-advocating, employment, and transition skills.

Here are some ways to think about using Pathfinder with your Individual Education Plans (IEP)

- Employment, independent living, post-secondary education
- Self-advocating, job training, job skills
- Community supports
- Expanding social skills outside of the school hours
- Equipping students to find resources independently



Sample IEP Goal with TN Disability Pathfinder in mind

“Given a list of calendar events, each month Evan will identify 3 events that she is interested in attending and write them in her planner and set up a calendar reminder with no more than 2 verbal prompts 4 out 5 opportunities by the end of semester.”

Sample IEP transition services with TN Disability Pathfinder in mind:

Jordan will use Tennessee Disability Pathfinder to identify three post-secondary programs where he is interested in applying and email these programs to ask for more information about application requirements.

Allison will use Tennessee Disability Pathfinder to look up at least 2 local resource supports, research these supports, and write at least 3 sentences about what services they provide and how they could help support her.

Jill will identify her disability and, using Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, will find at least two resource supports that she may need in an employment setting.

Using Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, José will identify local transportation services in his community to help him get to his post-school employment setting.

Given a problem-solving prompt, Anique will use Tennessee Disability Pathfinder to locate 3 community resources that could help him find a solution.

ACTIVITY: PRACTICE USING THE WEBSITE

Here are just a few tips to help you get started:

- It can be helpful to create an account because you can save search results, print out resources for students, and so much more.
- Start with the "Guided Journey" Search filters instead of the search box – add Keyword Search to narrow search results.
- Start with one topic and the age range of the student.
 - » It is helpful to start with only a couple of filters and then get narrower if you cannot find what you are looking for in a search.
- Most importantly - Always remember to contact us if you cannot find a specific resource or need more help!

We have created several case studies to help you get acquainted with the website. You can practice using the website individually or as a whole group activity with your students. It is a great way to get hands on practice and see the website firsthand.

Student is a sophomore with a learning disability and is looking into post-secondary options for after high school. Interested in either going to college or employment. Currently lives in Middle Tennessee but would like to move to East Tennessee after high school.

Student is receiving early intervention services and their parents need help finding a communication device. The family is also looking for recreational activities for the child. The child has a developmental delay.

Student is in 7th grade with a traumatic brain injury, currently lives in Middle Tennessee, and is looking for ways to get connected outside of school. The family is looking for respite programs or activities and wants to learn more about their IEP rights. Student also needs OT and PT outside of the school environment, but current provider is no longer accepting their insurance.

Student is in 11th grade, has a vision impairment, and is interested in becoming more independent with transportation and increasing vocational skills. Student would like to live independently after high school. Currently is not using any enabling technology but is a braille reader.

*Topics of Interest
Filters and Keywords
to search:*

- Post Secondary
- Employment
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Housing
- College

- Communication
- Developmental Delay
- Early Childhood
- Recreation

- TBI
- Respite
- Recreation
- PT/OT
- Community

- Vision Impairment/blind
- Employment
- Vocational
- Technology