



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

When students with intellectual disabilities leave school

This is an Easy Read version of: Post-school Transitions for Students with Intellectual Disabilities in the Republic of Ireland



easy
read

Contents

Page



Introduction

3



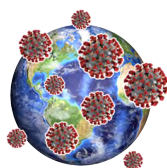
Planning for the future

6



Barriers and enablers

8



Covid-19

10



What should happen next

12



For more information

14

Introduction



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

We are the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities and School of Education.



We are a group who work at **Trinity College Dublin**.

Trinity College Dublin is a university.



We look at how life could be better for people with **intellectual disabilities** in Ireland.

An **intellectual disability** means you find it difficult to understand and learn things.



We wanted to find out more about what happens when young people with intellectual disabilities leave school.



Not many people with intellectual disabilities are able to find a job or go to university or college.



All schools help young people get ready to look for jobs or go to university or college.



We wanted to find out what schools do to help young people with intellectual disabilities plan for the future.



Ireland has laws that say everyone in school should be included.



We wanted to see if anyone was being left out.

We wrote to secondary school headteachers around the country.



We asked them to fill in a form and send it back to us.



We also spoke to teachers who help young people with intellectual disabilities get ready to leave school.



This information is about what we found out.

Planning for the future



Different schools give young people different amounts of help to think about what they might do when they leave school.



Some schools give lots of help.

Some schools don't help as much.



The government doesn't make sure everyone gets the same help.



Sometimes teachers aren't sure who should help young people with intellectual disabilities plan for the future.



Some headteacher's say that including everyone is the most important thing in the way they run their school.



These schools are good at helping young people with intellectual disabilities plan for the future.



In schools where including everyone is not the most important thing, people with intellectual disabilities are not getting as much help.



Often, these schools get the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) to do it instead.

Barriers and enablers



A **barrier** is something that stops you going somewhere.



An **enabler** is something that helps you to go somewhere.

Barriers

People said that the barriers for young people who want to go to college or university include:



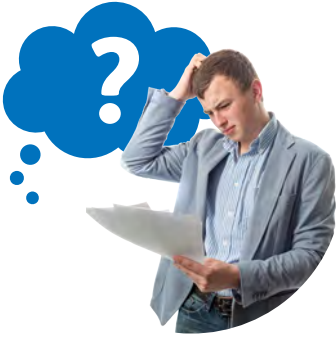
- Worry that the young person would not get the same amount of support at college as they got at school.



- Parents and teachers not agreeing on what would be the best place for the young person after they leave school.



- Not enough information about all the different things that the young person could do.



- Teachers not knowing about all the different things that are available to young people when they leave school.



Enablers

It helps when colleges and schools work closely together.

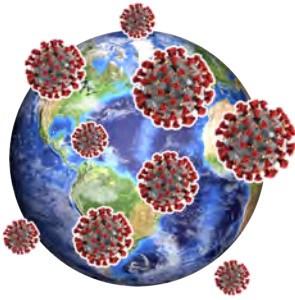


This helps schools to understand more about the different things young people can do when they leave school.



It also helps colleges to support young people once they have started.

Covid-19



Covid-19 is a new illness that has spread around the world.



It has meant a lot of schools had to close down for a while.



Young people have had to do school work at home.



Teachers said they were worried about young people with intellectual disabilities doing school work at home.

They were worried about their mental health.



But some young people with intellectual disabilities found it easier.

Teachers found it easier to help them one-to-one.



Exams

Covid-19 caused a lot of problems for young people depending on exam results.



You need good exam results to get into university or college.



But most young people with intellectual disabilities weren't depending on exam results.

They had already made plans and decided what they were going to do after school.

What should happen next



We think that some things should change to help young people with intellectual disabilities plan for the future.



Teachers should work together more to help young people with intellectual disabilities get ready to leave school.



People with intellectual disabilities don't often go to college or university.

Often they go to places like day centres.



We think that people with intellectual disabilities should be helped to go to college or university.



We think colleges and universities should do more to include people with intellectual disabilities.



Getting into college or university often depends on exam results.



We think:

- There should be more ways for people with intellectual disabilities to get into college or university.



- The government should do more to help people with intellectual disabilities go to college or university.



- Colleges and universities should be given money and training to help support people with intellectual disabilities.



- Colleges and universities should work together more with schools.

This means that everyone will know more about what people with intellectual disabilities can do when they leave school.

For more information



You can find out more about this project on our website:



- www.tcd.ie/Education/research/Post-School-Transitions-for-Students-with-Intellectual-Disabilities/



If you would like to know more about the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities you can find out more at:



Website: www.tcd.ie/tcpid



Email: tcpid@tcd.ie



Phone: +353-1-896-3879