



Freeze your student's timeline!

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Don't let your student be rushed out of high school, unprepared. Options include planning on a 5 year high school experience and/or getting off the diploma track. No one is saying that a student with ASD should not be given the diploma that they have earned, the question is when to award it!

ASD is a developmental disability. A solution is to shift the student's **Timeline** if needed

- What do we know about the clock and the calendar in ASD?
- Plan to continue at their own pace and take the time they need
- Start the plan EARLY
- Consider options to stay in their educational program until the age of 22 years
- Focus on the full range of needed, useful skills
- Customize timelines
- Some districts now have "five year plans" for diploma track students with ASD
- Another option is to earn but hold the diploma until needed transition services are completed (often/usually off the high school campus)

A viable option is to have the student participate in all graduation activities and ceremonies, but wait to award the actual piece of paper (diploma) until the student completes goals in all areas of need as written in the ITP. Young adults with ASD do NOT have to stay on a high school campus to receive services granted by the ITP. In many cases the student moves to another educational setting, such as a community college or specialized program site, and continues with adult-oriented services from the school district to meet the ITP Goals.