

Resources for Parents of Students with Disabilities

Below is a list of resources for parents of students with disabilities in Tennessee. *Please note: This is not a comprehensive list of all resources, and inclusion on this list does not indicate that the department endorses any particular resource, program, or group.*

Resources to Start With

Name	Description	Contact Information	Website
Tennessee Disability Pathfinder	The Tennessee Disability Pathfinder (“Pathfinder”) provides free information, resources, support, and referrals to Tennesseans with disabilities and their families. Through three major program components, Pathfinder provides information and resources to individuals of all ages, all types of disabilities, and in several different languages.	(800) 640-4636 tnpathfinder@vanderbilt.edu	http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/vkc/pathfinder/
Support and Training for Exceptional Parents (STEP-TN)	STEP’s purpose is to ensure that the education of children with disabilities is made more effective by strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring that families have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at home and at school.	(800) 280-STEP INFORMATION@TNSTEP.ORG	http://www.tnstep.org/

Additional Resources

Name	Description	Phone Number	Website
Tennessee Department of Education	The department believes that all students are capable of achieving academic growth. To this end, we work with districts and schools across the state to provide various educational opportunities for students who need additional support.	(615) 741-5158	https://www.tn.gov/education/section/student-support

Transition Tennessee	Transition Tennessee is our state's online home for training and resources on preparing students with disabilities for life after high school. Learn about best practices and practical strategies for special educators, families, and other transition team members as you fill your toolbox with key tools for success.	(615) 741-3834	http://transitiontn.org/
Tennessee Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE TN)	ABLE TN is a savings program designed to help individuals with disabilities put aside money to pay for qualified expenses. These accounts provide the opportunity to save and invest with tax-free earnings to help participants maintain independence and quality of life.	(855) 922-5386 ABLE.TN@tn.gov	http://abletn.gov/
Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities	The Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities is a state agency that leads initiatives statewide to improve disability policies and practices and helps coordinate services across a complex system. Individuals with disabilities and their family members can call for assistance navigating services and for resources about best practices in the disability field.	(615) 532-6615 tnddc@tn.gov	http://www.tn.gov/cdd
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth	WIOA provides services, training, and economic opportunities to allow individuals with disabilities to maximize their employability, independence, and integration into the workplace and the community. For more information on eligibility and WIOA services, contact the closest Local Workforce Development Area near you.	(844) 224-5818	http://tn.gov/workforce/topic/find-local-help
Vocational Rehabilitation Program (VR)	VR provides a variety of individualized services to persons with disabilities in preparation for their employment in the competitive labor market. VR advocates employment outcomes for clients that are consistent with their individual strengths, resources, abilities, capabilities, and informed choice. Pre-employment transition services are available to any student with a disability ages 14-22.	(615) 313-4891	https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/topic/vocational-rehabilitation
The Arc Tennessee	The Arc is the nation's largest organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families, with a 65-year history of promoting and protecting the rights of people with I/DD and providing them the opportunity to live full, satisfying, and self-determined lives as valued and contributing members of their communities.	(800) 835-7077 info@thearc.org	https://www.thearc.org/