

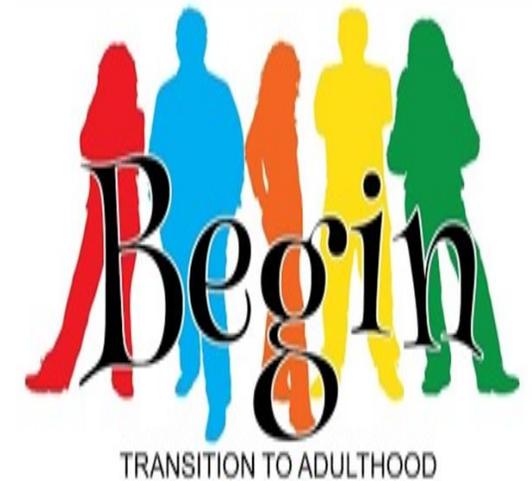
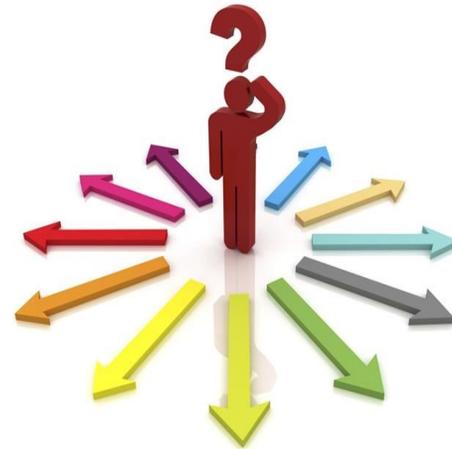
## How is 18+ Different than High School?

### High School

- Instruction in classrooms
- Core subjects
- Follow a bell schedule
- Grades

### BEGIN Program

- Instruction in a classroom and the community
- Life skills instruction (occupational preparation, work-related behaviors, daily living skills, self-advocacy, self determination, community resources)
- Service hours are flexible, dependent on student need
- Focus is on targeting post-secondary goals through functional IEP goals



# **BUILDING AND ENHANCING GROWTH TO INDEPENDENCE**

*Big Thicket Cooperative 18+ Program  
Lumberton, Kountze, and West Hardin*

*103 S LHS Drive, Lumberton, TX 77657  
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## What is the BEGIN Program?

The BEGIN program is an 18+ transition program that helps students and families in preparation for the transition into adult life. It provides opportunities for adult students in special education to achieve maximum levels of personal independence. Components of transition-related services implemented provide the framework for developing a coordinated set of activities to target:

- Daily Living Skills
- Community Living Skills
- Vocational Planning
- Recreational/Social Living
- Employability Skills
- Self-Determination
- Personal Self-Advocacy
- Connections with Outside Agencies

## Who is Eligible?

Students who have received all of their high school credits. Upon completion of these credits, students will receive a Certificate of Completion from the district. Once the student has met all IEP goals they are eligible to receive their diploma anytime before their 22nd birthday.

## Responsibilities

### Student

- Attend ARD meetings
- Follow through with scheduled activities, commitments, and tasks
- Communicate any schedule changes with school staff
- Develop and update a resume
- Participate in job search
- Fulfill all work based responsibilities
- Carry wallet, watch, Texas ID and emergency card
- Plan for expenses and make purchases in the community
- Dress appropriately for employment and community experiences
- Access transportation for the day through self, family or school
- Follow safety rules

### Parent

- Support/assist student with their responsibilities
- Participate in ARD meetings with student permission
- Assist and reinforce job search and work skills
- Provide opportunities for student to apply daily living skills
- Allow student to learn the value of natural consequences
- Support independence towards transportation needs
- Work with 18+ staff to reinforce skills and encourage independence

## Responsibilities

### Teacher

- Teach student self-advocacy
- Work with student and family to access supports in the community
- Monitor student progress
- Reinforce skills needed for campus based and community based vocational instruction
- Reinforce skills needed to advance employment, including job searching, updating resumes, completing applications and interviewing
- Coordinate with employers to promote student involvement
- Reinforce daily living skills
- Encourage independence
- Promote self-help, including self determination, money management, and safety
- Assist student and family in developing a plan for transportation following graduation

