



VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY

Facebook Group Invitation for Research

Study: Parent Perspectives on the Transition to Adulthood for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ID): Challenges, Advocacy, Possibilities

Are you a parent or guardian of a young person (aged 16–22) with an intellectual disability (ID)?

My name is Phil Gosse. I am a graduate researcher at Vancouver Island University, and I am inviting you to participate in a research study about the parents/guardians' experience navigating the transition to adulthood (TTA) process for their children with intellectual disabilities (ID) in British Columbia. The objective of this study is to examine the TTA system for students with IDs and their families, identifying both the barriers that may hinder successful transitions and the supports that can promote positive outcomes, with particular attention to parents' experiences. Your participation will help us in identifying both strengths and challenges within the TTA process and generating insights that may inform practices and policies aimed at fostering more effective transition preparation and positive family experiences.

Participation involves a confidential, online survey. Your insights can help inform better planning and support for families in the future. Participation is voluntary, and all information shared will remain confidential.

If you are a parent of a child with an intellectual disability living in British Columbia between the ages of sixteen and twenty-two and are interested in participating in this study, please scan the QR code below and submit the survey by May 30th, 2026. The proposed submission date for this thesis study is justified by the scope of the research design, the anticipated timeline for data collection, and the requirements for rigorous qualitative analysis.

Research Criteria

Inclusion criteria: the participant's children must be aged sixteen and up to twenty-two and have started the TTA process or completed it. Participant's child must have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability. Participants must reside in British Columbia. If the participant's child with an ID is nineteen or older, parents must have a signed RA7 representation agreement to consent on behalf of their child.

Exclusion criteria: participant's children are fifteen years and younger, twenty-three and older, and do not possess a diagnosis of an ID.

Study Team

Graduate Student Researcher:
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Principal Investigator:
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Vancouver Island University Faculty of Education
Sessional Instructor
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VIU Research Ethics Board Contact Information

Ethics ID: 103780
Email: reb@viu.ca

Recruitment

This study relies on social media connections and snowball sampling, meaning that you may refer this study to others that fit the inclusion criteria. However, these referrals must be conveyed via direct or private messaging and not publicly online to ensure confidentiality. Additionally, comments on this post are disabled to ensure potential participants are not tagged or identified in a comment.

Consent

Participants in this study are parents or guardians of children with intellectual disabilities (ID) and, although not directly participating in the study, their child/children with intellectual disabilities, given that parents' responses may contain the child's personal information and data relevant to answering the study's research questions. Consent will be obtained within the first section of the survey. **By clicking [Yes, I consent] to the questions in the first section of the survey, you have consented to participating in the survey. If you do not consent to any of the questions in the first section, you will be asked to close the survey and will not be able to participate in the study.** The first section also acknowledges that the collection of data about the participant's child makes them a participant in the study and as their legal guardian, you are agreeing to consent on their behalf and potentially share personal information with the study team. **If the child is nineteen or older, participants must have a signed RA7 representation agreement to consent on behalf of their child.** Further, respecting the child's privacy remains an important consideration in this study and you may choose not to disclose any identifiable information about your child while still participating in the survey. Additionally, you may also skip any survey questions you do not wish to answer following the consent and inclusion criteria section.

During the study, all data will be stored on secure VIU servers and will only be accessed by the graduate researcher (Phil Gosse) and principal investigator (Dr. Lila Boulet) and will be password-protected. All participant data will be destroyed no longer than a year after collection.

Link to Detailed Consent Form

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Af02E_MupObg3JV0WgymTut2huyW6RNXORFb1FekW4s/e/dit?usp=sharing

Confidentiality

Your responses are confidential. Only the graduate researcher (Phil Gosse) and principal investigator (Dr. Lila Boulet) will have access to raw data and responses that can be linked to individuals. Proper measures will be taken to protect your confidentiality. Your written comments will be used for reporting purposes. Information you provide in your comments that may identify you will be removed to the extent possible.

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Withdrawal

You may withdraw from the study any time prior to submitting the survey. You will also be reminded of this before starting the survey and prior to completing it. By consenting to these terms at the outset and end of the survey, you recognize that **the data you have shared upon submitting the survey cannot be withdrawn**. To withdraw from the survey simply close the window or tab before submitting the survey and your responses will be destroyed.

Data Management

The online survey will be administered through Microsoft Forms, all data will be stored on VIU's secure server and will be destroyed no longer than a year after being collected. All research data, particularly personal or sensitive information, will be collected, stored, and managed using Microsoft 365 services (OneDrive, SharePoint and Teams) provided by Vancouver Island University. VIU has a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) for its Microsoft 365 environment, confirming its adherence to relevant privacy legislation, including British Columbia's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and the principles of the Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (TCPS 2 (2022)). The PIA ensures that appropriate technical, administrative, and physical safeguards are in place to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data.

As per VIU REB recommendations and guidelines for research data management, the graduate researcher will use a shared folder on the principal investigator's tenanted VIU OneDrive for all digital data storage. No research data will be stored on personal computers or external hard drives. Upon completion of the research project and consistent with VIU's research data retention policies,

identifiable data stored within Microsoft 365 will be securely disposed of according to VIU's data retention schedule and privacy guidelines.

Use of data

The findings from this study will be disseminated to educators, families, provincial service providers, and the Ministry of Education through peer-reviewed publication, online platforms, and professional development opportunities. To ensure the research informs policy and practice, outcomes will also be shared at key provincial gatherings, including the British Columbia School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) and the BC Consortium of Administrators of Inclusive Schools and Special Education (BCCAISE) conferences. Presenting parent perspectives in these forums will foster constructive dialogue among families, educators, and policymakers, with the goal of promoting more collaborative, equitable, and supportive transition planning across the province.

Contact for complaints

If you have any concerns about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, please contact the VIU Research Ethics Board.

Ethics ID: 103780

Email: reb@viu.ca.

Link to Survey



[Transition to Adulthood \(TTA\) Survey – Fill out form](#)