Health and Medical Care, and Related Therapeutic Interventions
___ Understand the definitions for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), and why a person should be diagnosed.
___ Learn about treatment options and therapies
___ Sign up for the Autism Waiver
___ Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
___ Investigate Behavioral Support Services if you need them
___ Schedule regular re-evaluations and medical follow-up to measure progress and identify challenges
___ Develop a system to organize your paperwork
___ Develop a good group of providers and supports that will continue to work with your family on a long term basis

Assistive Technology
___ Learn all you can about Assistive Technology services available
___ Explore financial assistance for Assistive Technology
___ Students should exit school with a communication system that they can use comfortably and that they can take with them into the adult world

Education
___ Understand the requirements/criteria for exiting with a Diploma vs. a Certificate of Completion
___ Learn about the special education process and IEPs
___ Make sure that the IEP contains achievable, measurable objectives that reflect the student’s transition goals
___ Learn about 504 Plans
___ Determine with your IEP team which state assessment tests are most appropriate for your child
___ Contact your Parents’ Place of Maryland, Partners for Success Family Center, or the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for assistance with school issues, IEP development, school resources
___ Prepare for the transition from middle to high school
___ Prepare to transition out of high school
___ Understand your student’s placement options
___ Address any instances of bullying immediately
___ Understand matters of discipline including suspension and expulsion
___ Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
___ Explore summer time options
___ Explore college options
___ Develop a system to organize education records

Employment
___ Notice and develop skills that could lead to future employment
___ Make sure your teenager has a resume that may include a list of skills and competencies as well as a video portfolio showing him/her at work
___ Explore employment services and opportunities available in Maryland

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Housing
___ Begin to explore housing options
___ Apply to the local public housing authority Section 8 waiting list
___ Help your child establish credit

Social and Relationships
___ Help your child learn about appropriate social skills
    ___ Teach your child about sexuality, relationships, and other teen issues
___ Develop the recreational and leisure activities that your child enjoys

Funding for Services and Legal Issues
___ Review the “Financial Things Every Parent of a Child with Autism Needs to Know”
___ Sign up for the Autism Waiver
___ Understand what it means to move from Entitlement to Eligibility
___ Determine if your child is eligible for Social Security Benefits
    ___ Apply for Social Security Benefits at age 18
___ Apply to the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
___ Investigate Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)
___ Learn about life planning tools and options
___ Explore the legal implications of reaching age 18
___ Develop a system to organize financial and legal records

Support: Support Groups and Respite
___ Network with others at a support group
___ Investigate support groups for your child
___ Take care of yourself, your spouse, your other children
___ Investigate respite care options

Transportation
___ Explore options including public transportation, Mobility, and driver’s license
___ Help your child obtain a Maryland State ID card issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration

Advocacy and Self-Advocacy
___ Learn about becoming an advocate at the local and national level. Consider joining local and national autism groups and listservs.
___ Get involved with your local Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Committee (SECAC) or the Maryland Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)
___ Help your child learn self-advocacy skills

For the supporting information and details, visit www.pathfindersforautism.org