

Pathways to Life

Specialty School

This school program provides a transition to adulthood for 18- to 21-year olds with mild to moderate disabilities. (An Individual Education Plan – IEP – is developed and followed for the student's progress.) Tuition is paid by the school district for qualifying students.

The Classroom of Life

Students focus on exploring and developing skills for work, volunteering, and community involvement. Classes meet year-round, five days a week. Half the day is spent in classroom, and half is spent having community experiences.

Employment Training

Job placement is not required, however, students must have the desire to explore work skills training and learn appropriate workplace behaviors. Those placed in job situations are accompanied by LifeScape staff, who act as job coaches and eventually fade from their support. The student is paid through Vocational Rehabilitation Services' Project Skills program. The goal is for that to also phase out, and the person be paid as a regular employee.

Volunteerism and Active Community Participation

To prepare for employment or as an alternative to work, students participate in various volunteering experiences and are immersed in hands-on learning. These opportunities teach students how to access community resources, such as banking, transportation, social groups, shopping, and more – and how to integrate these activities into their daily lives.

A Unique Setting

Located at 2801 S. Kiwanis Ave., Suite 100, in Sioux Falls, the space is designed to reinforce the sense of learning and moving into adulthood.

Curriculum Highlights

- **Pre-employment:** Job-Exploration counseling, social skills, and self-advocacy.
- **Workforce readiness:** Attitude, communication, problem-solving, and professionalism.
- **Community readiness:** Accessing transportation, shopping, voting, and banking.
- **Domestic skills:** Home care, meal planning/cooking, paying bills, and scheduling appointments.



Designed for Learning Independence

The all-new Pathways to Life location has regular and accessible kitchen and laundry areas, indoor garden areas, and a simulated bedroom setting. Students plan, shop for, and cook meals. They practice using public transportation. They assist with taking care of the building and the landscaping outside – all skills for work, volunteering, and life at home.

Guidelines Set by Departments of Education & Labor

Pathways to Life meets Department of Education guidelines – as indicated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – and regulations related to the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), Section 511. The goal is to provide the skills for as much independence as possible within the home and community settings.

For more information:

- **Contact Admissions** at 605.444.9550 for details and referrals
- **Toll-Free** 800.584.9294, Ext. 9550
- **Visit** LifeScapeSD.org/admissions



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Compassion. Expertise. Success.

Pathways to Life offers the greatest expertise and the most resources in the region for a successful transition to adulthood. Here are the pluses LifeScape offers:

- The "Essential for Living" curriculum and a comprehensive Transition to Adulthood curriculum based on evidence-based practices and curriculum
 - Development and implementation of Individual Education Plans for students
 - Comprehensive re-evaluations of students to show progress on goals
 - Related services of speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and nursing when needed
 - Highly qualified special education teachers
 - Paraprofessional staff with expertise in job-coaching and community involvement
 - Staffing ratio of 1:4 – one staff to every four students
 - Dietary services for special food needs
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- Specialists in computer technology (including online safety) and adapted physical education as needed
 - Applied Behavioral Analysis services if needed
 - Integrated community experiences, including practice riding the bus, shopping, voting, making appointments
 - Volunteer experience in the community for all students
 - Close collaboration with Vocational Rehabilitation on job development and work experiences.
 - Job readiness training; some students have become employed in paying jobs
 - Development of lifelong connections to being actively involved in the community
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- **Intense Focus on the Pre-Employment Transition Skills mandated by Section 511 of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act:**
 - Job Exploration Counselling
 - Work-based learning experiences in an integrated environment
 - Post-secondary education counseling
 - Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills
 - Instruction in self-advocacy
 - Significant emphasis on serving students and youth with disabilities by increasing opportunities to practice and improve workplace skills, including internships and apprenticeships
 - Pre-Employment transition coordination



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