



# Barrow County School System

What can my student do once he/she graduates high school and how can they best be supported?

Post-secondary providers and resources list for Athens & surrounding areas

## I. Community Residential Services:

**I would like my child to live at home, but I will need extra help.**  
**I would like my child to live in a group setting.**  
**I would like for my child to live independently with some supports in place.**

Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Hope Haven	<a href="https://hopehaven.net/">https://hopehaven.net/</a> Athens 706-548-4361	-Community Living Support (CLS) Services are tailored to support a happy and healthy life for people who live in their own or family home. -Community Residential Alternative (CRA) Services are for people who need an intense level of support to achieve those home-like feelings throughout their life while sharing a group home. At Hope Haven, residents receive CRA services when they live in one of the five homes managed and operated by them.
ResCare Living Services	<a href="https://rescarecommunityliving.com/">https://rescarecommunityliving.com/</a> Watkinsville 706-549-0349	Options include the following: supported periodic living; group homes; host homes (residing with a neurotypical adult); medical care facility.
Georgia Mentor	<a href="https://www.ga-mentor.com/">https://www.ga-mentor.com/</a> Watkinsville and Athens 706-425-1814	Host homes and Group homes

<p>Advantage</p>	<p><a href="https://www.advantagebhs.org/developmental-disabilities.cms">https://www.advantagebhs.org/developmental-disabilities.cms</a></p> <p>Athens and Monroe 1 (855) 333-9544</p>	<p>Group home and community living skills training</p>
<p>Hi-Hope</p>	<p><a href="https://hihopecenter.org/">https://hihopecenter.org/</a></p> <p>Gwinnett County 770-963-8694</p>	<p>Group home</p>
<p>Right at Home</p>	<p><a href="https://www.rightathome.net/athens/">https://www.rightathome.net/athens/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-769-7277</p>	<p>Safety supervision; Companionship; Helping with hobbies and crafts; Reading aloud from books, newspapers and magazines; Transportation; Cognitive stimulation like playing cards and games; Grocery shopping; Light housekeeping</p>
<p>Georgia Options</p>	<p><a href="https://georgiaoptions.org/">https://georgiaoptions.org/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-546-0009</p>	<p>A direct support professional assists the person in their home with daily living tasks. This is very individualized. For example, the person may need assistance with bathing and dressing. They may need assistance to host a weekly game night for friends, pay bills or arrange Uber. They may need support to attend medical appointments or to take medications. They may need assistance with all aspects of care, or they may only need assistance with a few tasks. Community Living Support (CLS) may be provided from a few hours a week up to six hours per day (eleven hours if staff are shared with a roommate).</p>
<p>Multiple Choices</p>	<p><a href="https://multiplechoices.us/">https://multiplechoices.us/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-850-4025</p>	<p>Provides the information on independent living skills training, advocacy, resources, programs, and general support necessary for individuals to thrive.</p>
<p>On My Watch Care</p>	<p><a href="https://www.onmywatchcare.com/">https://www.onmywatchcare.com/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-354-1621</p>	<p>Provides in-home living support ranging in levels of support from meal prep, helping pay bills, personal care, transportation, nursing and more.</p>

## II. Community Access Services:

**I would like my child to have something engaging to do during the day.  
I need to work and will need assistance with my child while I am at work.**

Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Hope Haven	<a href="https://hopehaven.net/">https://hopehaven.net/</a> Athens 706-548-4361	Group outings of 3-10 people or individual outings with a direct support individual
ResCare Living Services	<a href="https://rescarecommunityliving.com/">https://rescarecommunityliving.com/</a> Watkinsville 706-549-0349	ResCare offers Day Habilitation programs to help individuals achieve goals and provide connections within their communities while giving them opportunities for social interactions. A Day Habilitation program is centered around an individual's needs and interests and helps them develop and/or improve communication skills. ResCare wants to help individuals with IDD (cognitive disabilities) get out of buildings and get into their communities. They help all their participants develop the necessary skills to pursue their interests and blossom within their community.
Georgia Mentor	<a href="https://www.ga-mentor.com/">https://www.ga-mentor.com/</a> Watkinsville and Athens 706-425-1814	Residential services (host homes and group homes), community access, respite, and therapeutic foster care
Advantage	<a href="https://www.advantagebhs.org/developmental-disabilities.cms">https://www.advantagebhs.org/developmental-disabilities.cms</a> Athens and Monroe 1 (855) 333-9544	Day program, one-on-one and group outings
Hi-Hope	<a href="https://hihopecenter.org/">https://hihopecenter.org/</a> Gwinnett County 770-963-8694	Day program, one-on-one and group outings
Georgia Options	<a href="https://georgiaoptions.org/">https://georgiaoptions.org/</a> Athens 706-546-0009	Georgia Options believes that communities are enriched when people with disabilities are part of the fabric. They accomplish this by supporting people to join groups and clubs based on their interests, volunteer doing things they love, and taking classes and workshops on subjects that interest them. Their direct support professionals enable the person to do these things on their own or with friends.

Suitable for the People Health Services	Athens 706-850-6109	Day program, one-on-one and group outings
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### III. Employment Support

I would like my child to have support while working.		
Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Vocational Rehabilitation	<a href="https://gvs.georgia.gov/">https://gvs.georgia.gov/</a>	<p>The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies (GVRA) supported employment is designed for individuals with significant disabilities for whom considerable assistance along with extended follow-up is needed to maintain a specific type of career.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Traditional Supported Employment (SE) is for anyone who qualifies for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and needs intensive job coaching and ongoing support in a traditional job setting.</li> <li>2. Customized SE refers to competitive integrated employment (CIE)* for anyone with a significant disability who has undergone an assessment of strengths, needs, and interests. The individual's abilities are matched to the employer's needs with flexible strategies for success.</li> </ol>
Project SEARCH (Adult Program)	<a href="https://projectsearch.us/">https://projectsearch.us/</a>  Athens (Piedmont Hospital) 770-963-8694	The Project SEARCH Transition-to-Work Program is a unique, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. The 9-month program culminates in individualized job development.
Advancing Employment	<a href="https://www.advancingemployment.com">https://www.advancingemployment.com</a>  Athens 706-542-3457	Advancing Employment is dedicated to building a community for inclusive employment in Georgia. It is here where individuals with disabilities, their families, service providers, and others interested in employment can learn and connect with one another.
Briggs & Associates	<a href="https://www.briggsassociates.org/wordpress/">https://www.briggsassociates.org/wordpress/</a>  Roswell (serves Athens) 770-993-4559	Briggs & Associates matches the abilities of people with disabilities to real jobs, then provides the support and training needed to ensure success for both the employee and employer. They provide comprehensive employment services for any individual who may require non-traditional support and/or entry into the workplace.
Hi-Hope	<a href="https://hihopecenter.org/">https://hihopecenter.org/</a>  Gwinnett County 770-963-8694	Supported employment, customized employment and self-employment

<p>Goodwill of North Georgia</p>	<p><a href="https://goodwillng.org/gw-locations/east-athens-store-donation-career-center-30605/">https://goodwillng.org/gw-locations/east-athens-store-donation-career-center-30605/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-395-1558</p>	<p>Goodwill's Workforce Development Program offers progressive training methods to prepare people with disabilities for competitive employment.</p>
<p>ARCH transition bridge program</p>	<p><a href="https://www.thejpnnetwork.com/arch-programs">https://www.thejpnnetwork.com/arch-programs</a></p> <p>Athens (Augusta, Valdosta) 706-247-1912</p>	<p>A training program for 6-12 weeks focused on work readiness, career exploration and life skills.</p>
<p>Acumen</p>	<p><a href="https://www.acumenfiscalagent.com/georgia/">https://www.acumenfiscalagent.com/georgia/</a></p> <p>Georgia (877) 211-3738</p>	<p>Acumen Fiscal Agent facilitates freedom, choice and opportunity through innovative fiscal agent solutions. This ultimately helps families use waiver funding to hire an individual to help with customized employment.</p>
<p>Wiregrass</p>	<p><a href="http://www.wiregrassresources.org/">http://www.wiregrassresources.org/</a></p> <p>Georgia and Florida 844-947-4727</p>	<p>Supported employment, customized employment, Individual job placement, workplace readiness training, job coaching</p>
<p>Love Craft</p>	<p><a href="https://www.lovecraftathens.org/">https://www.lovecraftathens.org/</a></p> <p>Athens 502-468-0554</p>	<p>Pottery program, music programs, community craft events and community concerts. Led by a former CCSD special education teacher.</p>
<p>Sunshine Studios</p>	<p><a href="https://www.lightlifelovedesigns.com/sunshinestudio">https://www.lightlifelovedesigns.com/sunshinestudio</a></p> <p>Athens Light.Life.Love.Blog@gmail.com</p>	<p>The Sunshine Studio provides opportunities for adults with special needs to develop and maintain specific life skills through purpose driven activities and targeted programming with internships, studio sessions and service-learning projects.</p>
<p>Java Joy</p>	<p><a href="https://javajoy.org/">https://javajoy.org/</a></p> <p>Athens 706-769-9333</p>	<p>A program of the non-profit ESP Inc. (Formerly Extra Special People, Inc.), Java Joy was created in 2016 to provide meaningful employment for adults with disabilities while giving the community unique engagement opportunities. Java Joy exists to create experiences of unmatched joy through moments of engagement with people of all abilities.</p>
<p>Bitty &amp; Beau's</p>	<p><a href="https://www.bittyandbeauscoffee.com/location/athens/">https://www.bittyandbeauscoffee.com/location/athens/</a></p> <p>Athens (and other locations around the US) 678-361-8184</p>	<p>A nationwide coffee shop that employs people with disabilities</p>

#### IV. SII Disability Benefits

**I would like my child to work while still earning their SSI disability benefits.**

Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Walton Options	<a href="https://www.waltonoptions.org/programs/wipa/">https://www.waltonoptions.org/programs/wipa/</a> 948 Walton Way, Augusta, GA. 706-724-6262	Work Incentives Planning & Assistance provides free counseling to Social Security disability beneficiaries to help them make informed choices about work and offers a range of services to help recipients understand their options if they choose to pursue work.
People's Choice	<a href="http://www.peopleschoicepayee.com/">http://www.peopleschoicepayee.com/</a> 2302 Parklake Dr. Ste 510 404-296-0340 pcpayeeservices@yahoo.com	Rep Payee Programs - For students who will be more independent but need help managing their bills and finances.

#### V. Community and Social Interaction

**I would like for my child to be engaged in a community social group so that they have an opportunity to create and maintain friendships with peers.**

Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Love Craft	<a href="https://www.lovecraftathens.org/">https://www.lovecraftathens.org/</a> Athens 502-468-0554	Pottery program, music programs, community craft events and community concerts. Led by former Clarke County special education teacher.
Special Olympics UGA social group	<a href="https://uga.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/soatuga">https://uga.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/soatuga</a> Athens mlgolden21@gmail.com	Various monthly Social Group events for adult athletes

Bethlehem Buddies	<a href="https://bethlehemchurch.us/bethlehem-buddies">https://bethlehemchurch.us/bethlehem-buddies</a>  Bethlehem and Bishop 770-867-3577	Church programming is offered for adults with special needs. Buddies Small Group is offered year-round with weekly group meetings, community outings, and special events. Respite Nights for parents/caregivers, Family Events like cookouts and movie nights, and Buddies Birthday Bashes throughout the year. Night to Shine every February, a prom for individuals with special needs
Extra Special People - ESP	<a href="https://www.espyouandme.org/">https://www.espyouandme.org/</a>  Watkinsville 706-769-9333	Afternoon programs, summer camps, weekend & special events
Special Olympics	<a href="https://www.specialolympicsga.org/">https://www.specialolympicsga.org/</a>  Athens 706-613-3800	Adaptive bowling and bocce ball Special Olympics
Special Pops Tennis	<a href="https://www.specialpopstennis.org/">https://www.specialpopstennis.org/</a>  Athens 404-702-5820	Adaptive tennis program specifically designed for adults with intellectual abilities
Connections for Special Parents	<a href="https://www.connectionsforspecialparents.org/home">https://www.connectionsforspecialparents.org/home</a>  Royston 706-436-6756	Yearly social events and summer camps
AGAPE- All God's Abilities Purposefully Engaged	<a href="https://athensfirstumc.org/agape/">https://athensfirstumc.org/agape/</a>  Athens 706-543-1442	All God's Abilities Purposefully Engaged - is to create a safe and comfortable, inclusive Christian environment for children and students of all abilities.

## VI. Transportation

I would like my child to have assistance with transportation.		
Provider name	Contact information	Services offered
Wheels of Hope	<a href="https://wheelsofhopegeorgia.org/">https://wheelsofhopegeorgia.org/</a> Athens 706-765-8332	The Wheels of Hope program is intended for residents in Athens-Clarke and surrounding counties who cannot drive due to age, illness, or disability. As a ride sharing program, there is a network of volunteers that provide the rides on an as-needed basis. The ride fee is affordable, with a \$20 fare cap per round trip. Members of the program will have an established account and never have to worry about exchanging money with the drivers. The drivers are committed to stay with the rider for the duration of the trip, so riders don't have to worry about being dropped off.
ACC Lift Paratransit Service	<a href="https://www.accgov.com/2070/The-Lift-Paratransit-Service">https://www.accgov.com/2070/The-Lift-Paratransit-Service</a> Athens 706-613-3435	A similar service to the fixed route system, but for individuals with a disability that are not able to ride the typical Athens-Clarke County city bus.
Multiple Choices	<a href="https://multiplechoices.us/">https://multiplechoices.us/</a> Athens 706-850-4025	Offers transportation assistance to and from facilities and helps coordinate transportation to other destinations. It also hosts periodic social events in surrounding communities.
Bike Athens	<a href="https://www.bikeathens.org/engage/brp/">https://www.bikeathens.org/engage/brp/</a> Athens 706-249-9550	Bike Donations

## VII. Therapy and Advocacy

I would like access and support for therapy services or advocacy for my child and for myself.		
Georgia Special Needs Association	<a href="https://www.gasna.org/">https://www.gasna.org/</a> Athens 706-750-8088	Support families as they navigate through services for children and adults with disabilities.
Connections for Special Parents	<a href="https://www.connectionsforspecialparents.org/home">https://www.connectionsforspecialparents.org/home</a> Royston 706-436-6756	Connecting parents with special needs children to learn and support each other, also offers OT speech and ABA therapies. Respite care is also offered.



Sunny Day Therapeutics	<a href="https://sunnydaystherapeutics.com/">https://sunnydaystherapeutics.com/</a>  Athens 706-883-5300	Recreation therapy, Group therapy, Art therapy, Music therapy, adaptive yoga classes and independent skills classes
Abridge	<a href="https://www.abridgeaginglifecare.com/">https://www.abridgeaginglifecare.com/</a>  Athens 706-810-3203	Advocacy services for ages 25 and over - help guides families through case management
Citizen Advocacy	<a href="https://www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org/">https://www.citizenadvocacyatlantadekalb.org/</a> and <a href="#">Citizen Advocacy Athens</a>  Athens (and Atlanta) 706-621-0622 <a href="mailto:citizenadvocacy.athensclarke@gmail.com">citizenadvocacy.athensclarke@gmail.com</a>	The mission of Citizen Advocacy Athens Clarke (CAAC) is to establish relationships in the Athens community that offer protection and advocacy to people with developmental disabilities who are at risk of neglect, abuse, and social isolation.

### VIII. Financial needs

<b>I would like my child to receive financial assistance.</b>		
SSI	<a href="https://www.ssa.gov/">https://www.ssa.gov/</a>  800-772-1213	SSI is an income support program and provides monthly payments to people who have disabilities and have limited income and resources.  <b>*At the age of 18 SSI needs to be re-applied for (this will only claim income/expenses of the individual - not the household)</b>
NOW/COMP waiver (Medicaid Waiver)	<a href="https://georgia.gov/apply-new-option-waiver-program-now-and-comprehensive-support-waiver-program-comp">https://georgia.gov/apply-new-option-waiver-program-now-and-comprehensive-support-waiver-program-comp</a>  706-792-7733	A Medicaid waiver is money that may be used to pay for services for a person with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities. These services can take place in the person's home or in the community.

## IX. College and training programs

I would like my child to attend a post-secondary education or training program.		
UGA Regents Center for Learning Disorders	<a href="https://www.rclid.uga.edu/about-us">https://www.rclid.uga.edu/about-us</a>	The UGA RCLD administers consistent policy and clearly defined disability eligibility criteria at USG institutions, allowing otherwise qualified students with Learning Disorders to access appropriate academic accommodations and services as well as offering evaluations and documentation review.
Disability Service Providers for colleges in Georgia	<a href="https://www.usg.edu/institutions/directories/disability_service_providers/">https://www.usg.edu/institutions/directories/disability_service_providers/</a>	A comprehensive list of contact information for Disability Service Offices at Colleges and Universities across the state.
Think College	<a href="https://thinkcollege.net/college-search">https://thinkcollege.net/college-search</a>	A national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with an intellectual disability.
Athens Tech WIOA vocational training program	<a href="https://www.athenstech.edu/current-students/student-resources/wioa/">https://www.athenstech.edu/current-students/student-resources/wioa/</a>  706-355-5145	The WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) Program provides financial assistance and supportive services for Georgians who are unemployed because of plant closures, mass layoffs, and other effects. WIOA assists with tuition, books, and supplies needed for academic programs of study.
WorkSource Northeast Georgia	<a href="https://negrc.org/workforce-development/">https://negrc.org/workforce-development/</a>  706-369-5703	Offers tuition assistance for 1,2- and 4-year programs as well as training programs for medical assistants, CNA nursing assistants, welding, ManufactuReady, CDL and more.
ACTION, Inc.'s Accelerated Opportunities NOW Program (16-24)	<a href="https://actionathens.org/">https://actionathens.org/</a>  706-546-8293	Opportunities Now program is dedicated to partnering with participants to identify their educational and professional goals, and then work step- by-step to map out a plan of action that will lead to a successful outcome. Services involved: Intensive Case Management, One-on-One Mentoring, Academic and Career Coaching, Career Assessments, Identifying and assisting with obtaining qualified support, Life Skills Training and Financial Workshops
Paxen/Eckerds connect	<a href="https://eckerd.org/jobs-training/affiliated-partnership/paxen/">https://eckerd.org/jobs-training/affiliated-partnership/paxen/</a>  706-850-7220	Paxen specializes in developing and delivering outcome-based programs that build academic, employment and life skills. Offering: workforce development and life skills training, Juvenile delinquency interventions, GED® Services

<p>Cave Spring Center</p>	<p><a href="https://gvs.georgia.gov/transition-school-work/cave-spring-center">https://gvs.georgia.gov/transition-school-work/cave-spring-center</a> 844-367-4872</p>	<p>Cave Spring Center serves Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) clients, 18 years old and older, who are referred by their VR counselors to participate in education and training programs in a residential, wholistic, college-like environment.</p>
<p>Roosevelt Warm Springs</p>	<p><a href="https://gvs.georgia.gov/transition-school-work/roosevelt-warm-springs">https://gvs.georgia.gov/transition-school-work/roosevelt-warm-springs</a> 706-655-5000</p>	<p>Roosevelt Warm Springs offers 6 pathways for Vocational Rehabilitation students interested in careers in one of these high-demand fields. Academic pathways at RWS are 16-week residential programs that give eligible students the perfect balance of direct instruction coupled with hands-on experience in Hospitality, Auto Detailing, Logistics/Warehousing, Low Voltage Wiring, CVS/Retail, or Nursing.</p>
<p>Project SEARCH (Adult Program)</p>	<p><a href="https://projectsearch.us/">https://projectsearch.us/</a> Athens (Piedmont Hospital) 770-963-8694</p>	<p>The Project SEARCH Transition-to-Work Program is a unique, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. The 9-month program culminates in individualized job development.</p>