

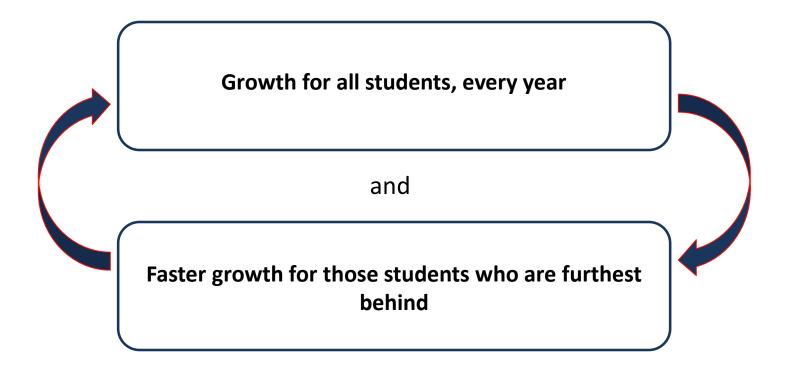
Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.



Postsecondary Transition Planning:

Equip, Empower, and Encourage

Our accountability system has two overarching objectives







TENNESSEE SUCCEEDS.

 Tennessee will rank in the top half of states on the NAEP by 2019. The average ACT composite score in Tennessee will be a 21 by 2020.

The majority of high school graduates from the class of 2020 will earn a postsecondary certificate, diploma, or degree.

- Early Foundations and Literacy
- High School & Bridge to Postsecondary
- All Means All
- Educator Support
- District Empowerment



Our Priorities: Tennessee Succeeds

Early Foundations & Literacy

Building skills in early grades to contribute to future success

High School & Bridge to Postsecondary

Preparing significantly more students for postsecondary completion

All Means All

Providing individualized support and opportunities for all students with a focus on those who are furthest behind

Educator Support

Supporting the preparation and development of an exceptional educator workforce

District Empowerment

Providing districts with the tools and autonomy they need to make the best decisions for students



Beliefs

- All students can learn and demonstrate growth (ALL means ALL)
- Specialized instruction (IDEA, ELL and Title) is a continuum of services (not a place)
- Relationships and collaboration (tearing down silos of education) so stakeholders will focus on decisions that are best for ALL students
- Responsibility and accountability in teaching and supporting ALL students
- Strong leadership at all levels to ensure that students are supported in the least restrictive environment
- High quality professional learning empowers all stakeholders and builds capacity for the success of ALL students



Key Goals of Special Populations

Improving Student Outcomes

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Achievement
- Outcomes

Managing Performance

 Effective employees at every level of the organization with a focus on improving student outcomes.





Pre-Test

Today's Goal

 Develop a deeper <u>understanding</u> and <u>appreciation</u> for the components of Transition Planning that will lead to improved outcomes for students with disabilities.

With out a transition plan, a student's goals are merely a dream. The plan makes it actionable and attainable



The Purpose of Special Education: Our Charge

- Why do we send our students to school for so many years?
- IDEA (2004) articulates one of our primary purposes

...to ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living...

Read the full text at http://idea.ed.gov



A Few Accountability Indicators

Indicator 1

Percent of youth with individualized education programs (IEPs)
graduating from high school with a regular diploma compared to
percent of all youth in the State graduating with a regular diploma.

Indicator 2

 Percent of youth with IEPs dropping out of high school compared to the percent of all youth in the State dropping out of high school.

Indicator 13

 Percent of youth aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the child to meet the post-secondary goals.

Indicator 14

 Percent of youth who had IEPs, are no longer in secondary school and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both, within one year of leaving high school.



Video link: https://vimeo.com/108394314



"I want to be..."

Courtesy of TennesseeWorks

Employment Paradigm Shift

From Impossible to Possible

From Possible to Beneficial

From Beneficial to Allowed

From Allowed to Preferred

From Preferred to Expected





Activity 1 – Myth/Reality

Myth vs Reality

Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who graduate with a Special Education or Occupational Diploma don't have an opportunity to attend a postsecondary college
After leaving high school, families do not consider some type of employment in the community to be important.
Students who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are under the age of 22, and regularly attend school can earn up to \$1,780 per month with no change in their SSI.
Students receiving services through an Individualized Education Program who wish to participate in Work-Based Learning, must be supervised by a special education teacher.
Beginning in 2015-16, The Occupational Diploma is a current diploma option available for students on an IEP who meet the requirements.
Transition was included in IDEA because students receiving special education services were successful in achieving their postsecondary goals.

Myth vs Reality

Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who graduate with a Special Education or Occupational Diploma don't have an opportunity to attend a postsecondary college.



Facts

- Tennessee currently has 5 postsecondary education institutions for students graduating with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
 - FUTURE at University of Tennessee
 - Next Steps at Vanderbilt University
 - IDEAL at Lipscomb University
 - EDGE at Union University
 - TigerLIFE at University of Memphis



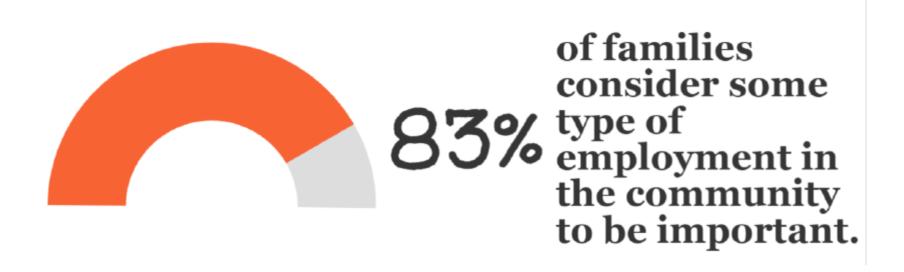
Myth vs Reality

After leaving high school, families do not consider some type of employment in the community to be important.



Facts

 In a recent TennesseeWorks survey of families who have children with disabilities, 83% consider some type of employment to important.





Myth vs Reality

Students who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), are under the age of 22, and regularly attend school can earn up to \$1,780 per month with no change in their SSI.



Facts

- There is a Student Earned Income Exclusion of \$1,780 monthly/\$7,180 annually if the student qualifies.
- While this can be confusing, the best approach is to contact the following:
 - Benefits to Work
 - Local Social Security office
 - Social Security (800) 772-1213



Myth vs. Reality

Students receiving services through an Individualized Education Program who wish to participate in Work-Based Learning, must be supervised by a special education teacher.



Facts

- Work-Based Learning is an excellent predictor for postsecondary employment success.
- There are multiple WBL options for students with disabilities to be enrolled in. Most common are:
 - WBL 6105: Career Practicum
 - WBL 6107: Special Education Transitions
- The decision should be approached based on the student's least restrictive environment.
- Student's enrolled WBL 6107 must be supervised by a special education teacher due to the unique needs associated with their disability.



Myth vs Reality

Beginning in 2015-16, The Occupational Diploma is a current diploma option available for students on an IEP who meet the requirements.



Facts

- Who is Eligible for the Occupational Diploma?
 - Students with an IEP

and

Student not eligible for a general education diploma

and

 Students who graduated with a Special Education Diploma and is entitled to special education services until the student either earns a high school diploma or reaches twenty-two (22) years of age. A student with a disability who reaches twenty-two (22) years of age after the beginning of a school year continues to be entitled to special education services for the remainder of that school year.

If a student meets those guidelines, than no sooner than 10th grade, the IEP team <u>may</u> select Occupational Diploma for that student.



How Do Students Earn the Occupational Diploma?

- Students selected for the Occupational Diploma <u>must</u> successfully complete the Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA)
 - All 4 "Required"
 - 8 of 10 "Critical"
 - 2 years work experience (for the pilot schools, one year work experience is required)



Myth vs Reality

Transition was included in IDEA because students receiving special education services were successful in achieving their postsecondary goals.



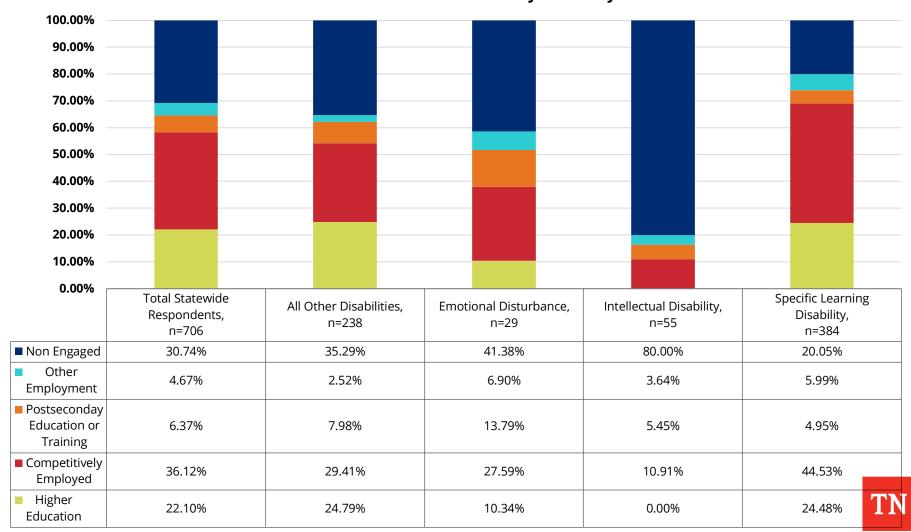
Facts

- The first student who graduated after the authorization of the 1975 Education of the Handicapped Act (PL 94-142) were leaving school and not successful in adult life.
- The metrics were based on:
 - Unemployment
 - Lack of enrollment in postsecondary education
 - Dependence on parents
 - Social isolation
 - Lack of community involvement
- While we have made progress toward adult outcomes, recent data shows areas that need improvement.



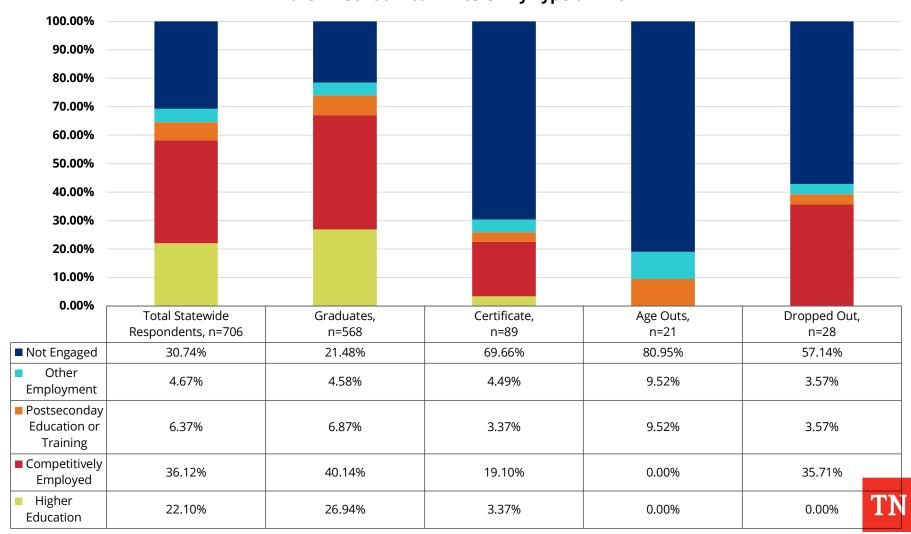
Indicator 14 Data – By Disability

Tennessee IDEA Part B APR Indicator 14: Post-School Outcomes 2013-14 School Year Exiters - By Disability

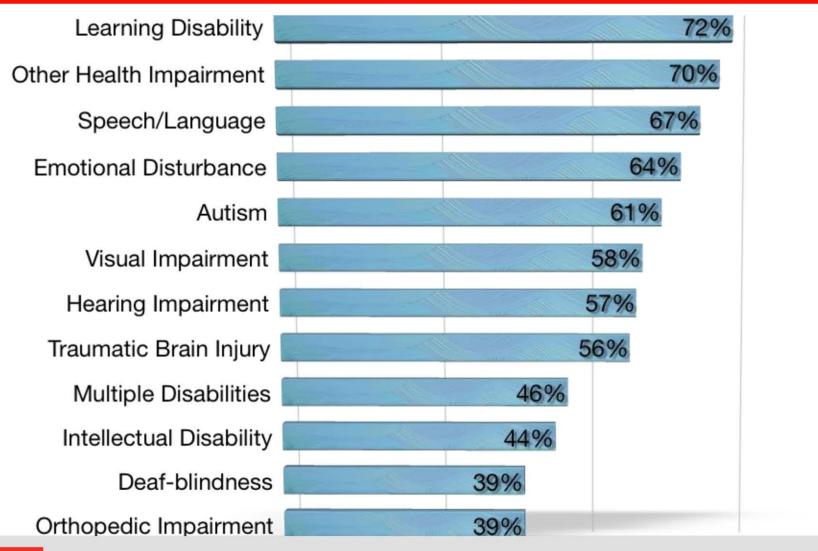


Indicator 14 – By Type of Exit

Tennessee IDEA Part B APR Indicator 14: Post-School Outcomes 2013-14 School Year Exiters - By Type of Exit



Employment Status (4 years out)

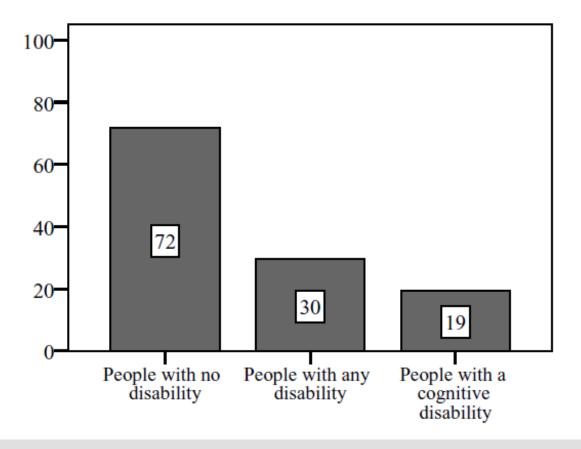




Source: NLTS2 Wave 3 Parent and Youth Interviews

Workforce Landscape for Students with Disabilities

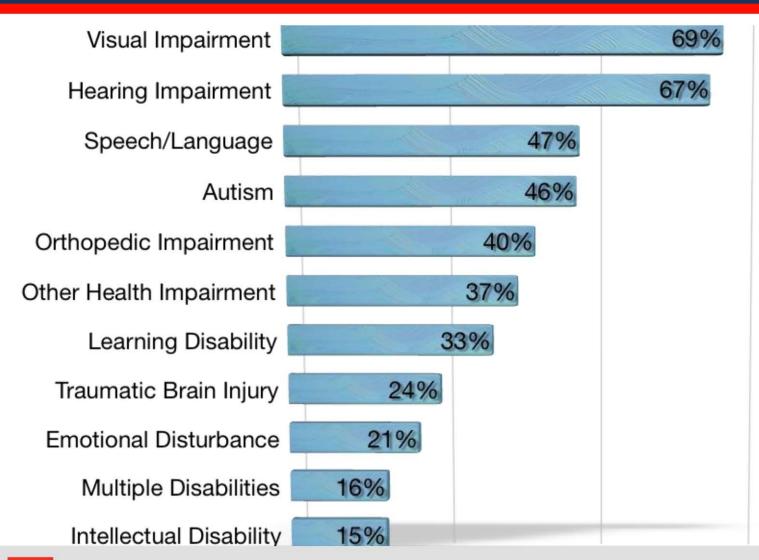
Tennessee: Percentage of Working-Age Population in 2013



Source: American Community Survey (ACS) from the National Report on Employment Service Outcomes 2014



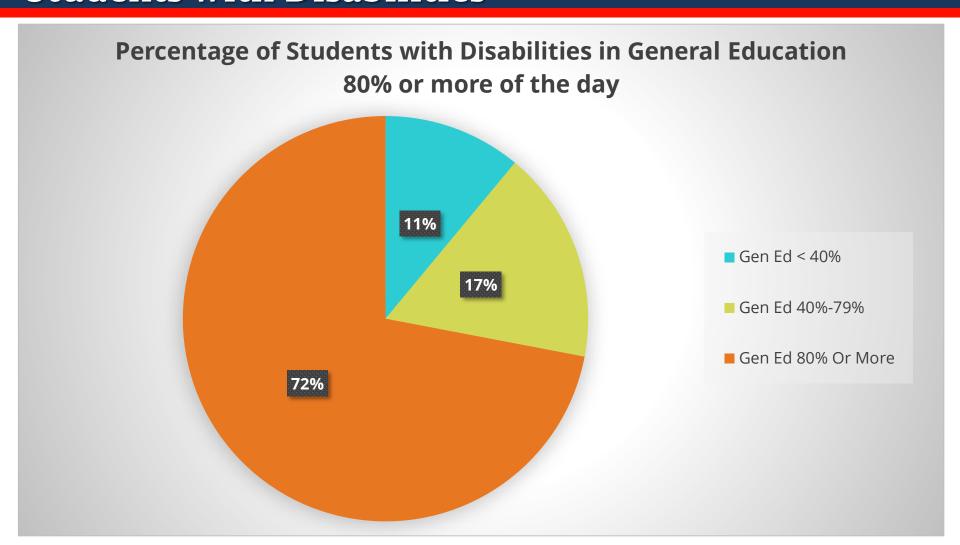
Postsecondary Enrollment (2 years out)





Source: NLTS2 Wave 2 Parent and Youth Interviews www.nlts2.org³

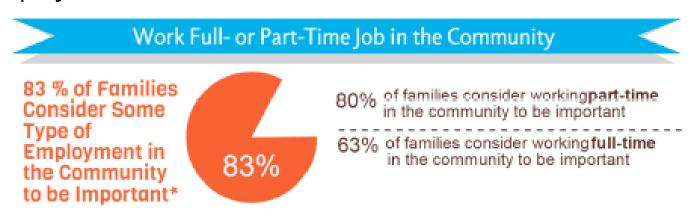
Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Landscape for Students with Disabilities





Culture Shift

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
 - Designed to strengthen and improve our nation's public workforce system and help put Americans, especially youth and those with significant barriers to employment, back to work
 - 15% of Vocational Rehabilitation services must be for preemployment transition services
 - Use of subminimum wage will be increasingly limited
 - Competitive, integrated employment is now considered the optimal employment outcome





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Activity 2 – Define Transition Planning

What is Transition Planning

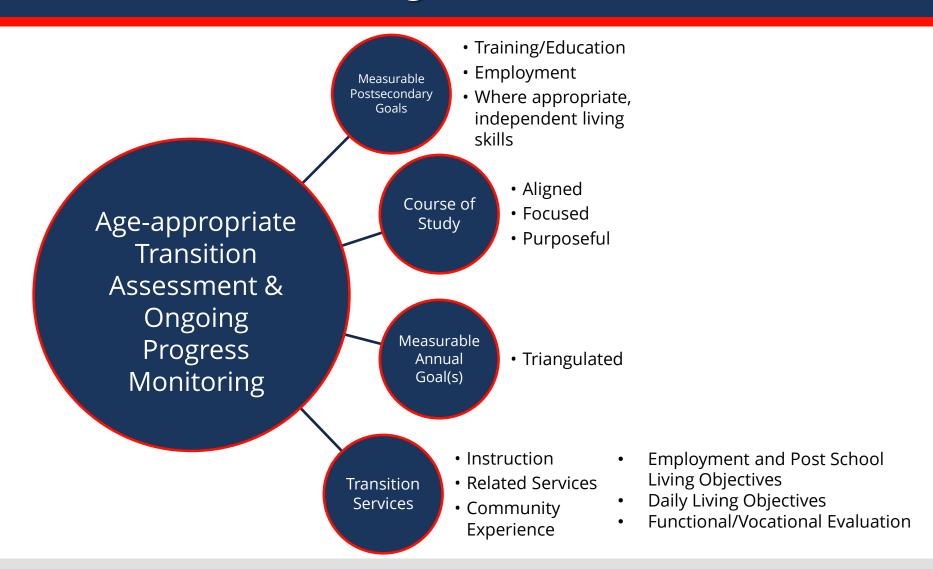
- Transition is a "coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is designed to be within a resultsoriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including...
 - postsecondary education,
 - vocational education,
 - integrated employment (including supported employment),
 - continuing and adult education,
 - adult services,
 - independent living, or
 - community participation."





Transition Planning and Services: An Educator's Guide

Transition Planning



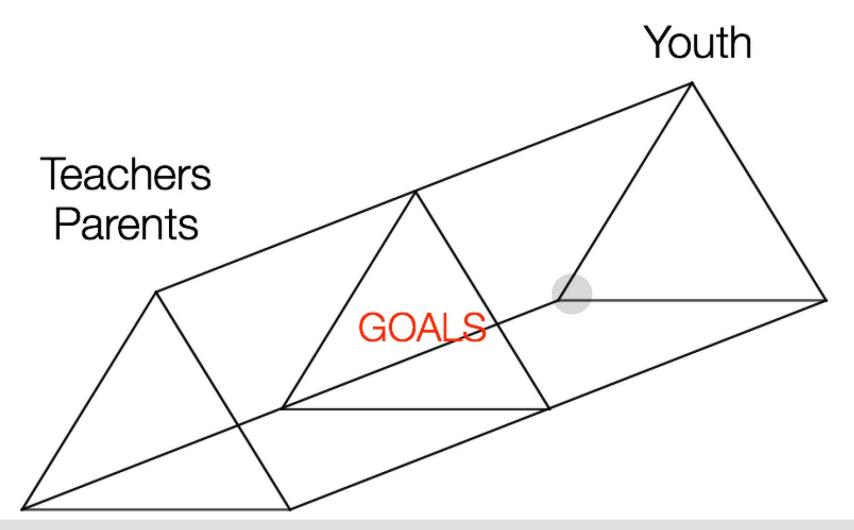


Student Invitation

- A student must be invited to his/her IEP team meetings beginning with the IEP during which the student will turn 14 years of age
 - Most effective practice
 - Required by law
- Promotes self-advocacy skills
 - Student-led IEP meeting



Shifting Perspectives: Youth Leadership



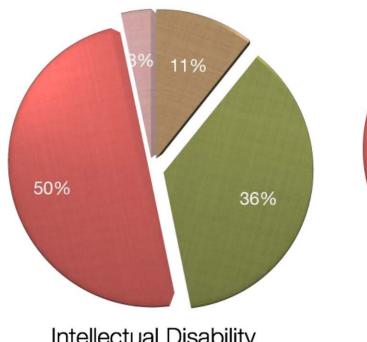


Shifting Perspectives: Youth Leadership

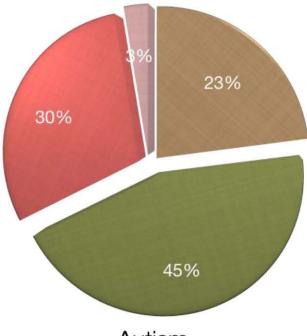
Who is Participating in IEPs?

- Do Not Attend Meetings
- Are Present But Participate Little
- Are Moderately Active
- Are Leaders in Planning

Percentage of Students Who...



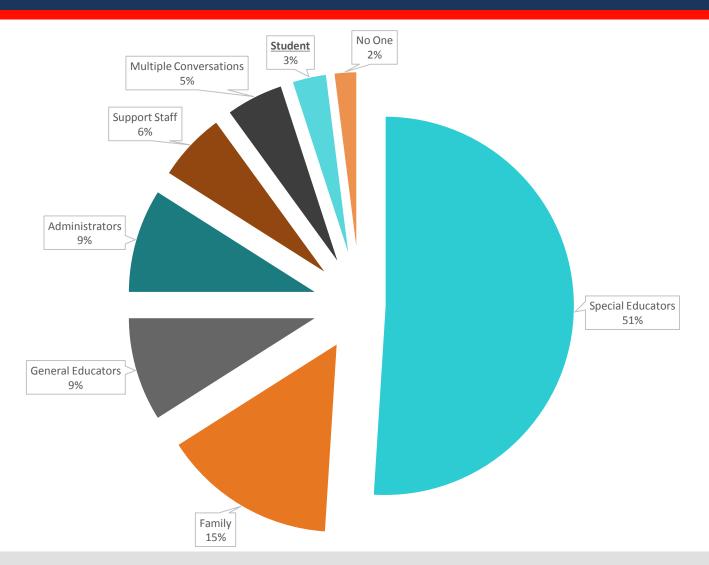




Autism

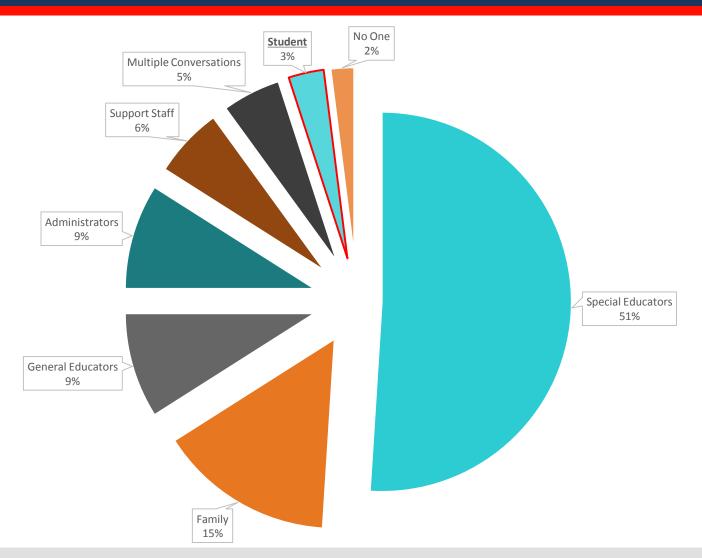


Who Talks at Transition Planning Meetings?



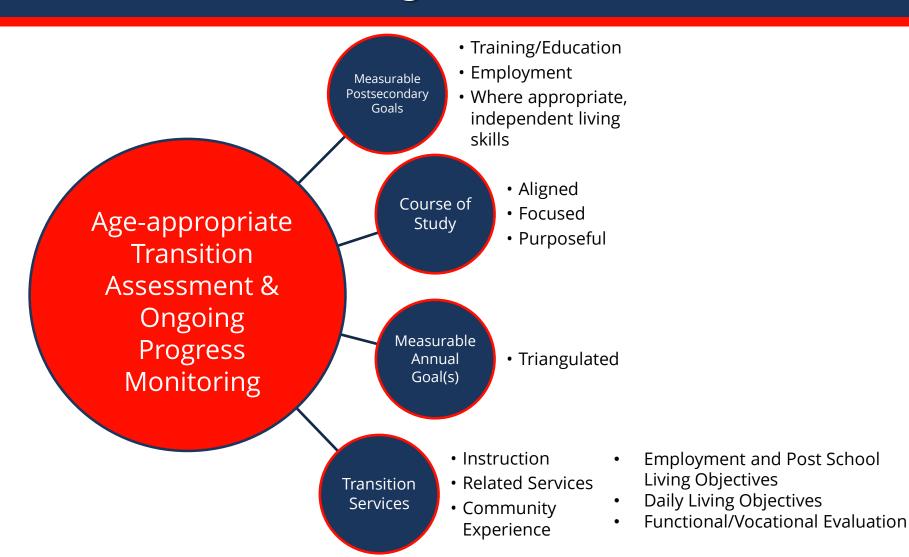


Who Talks at Transition Planning Meetings?





Transition Planning



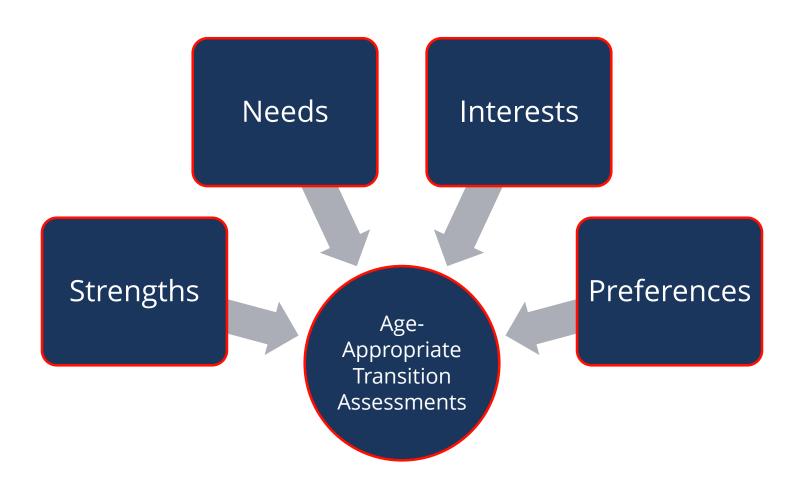


Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments

- The first IEP to be in effect when a child with a disability turns 14 must include:
 - Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon ageappropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and
 - The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.
 - (§300.320(b))
- Transition activities must be:
 - "based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests"



Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments





Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments

- Existing documents and background information
- Person-centered planning practices
- Structured interviews
- Observations
- Formal assessments
- Informal assessments
- Situational ("hands on") assessments



Good Transition Assessment Should...

- Begin early
- Incorporate multiple perspectives
- Address personally meaningful domains
- Incorporate multiple approaches and/or tools
- Be culturally and linguistically relevant
- Be practical and feasible
- Ongoing, dynamic (versus one-time, discrete)
- Strength-based versus deficit-based
- Should generate data that can inform planning
- Identify needed skills, experiences, connections, and supports
- Communicate meaningful information with future providers

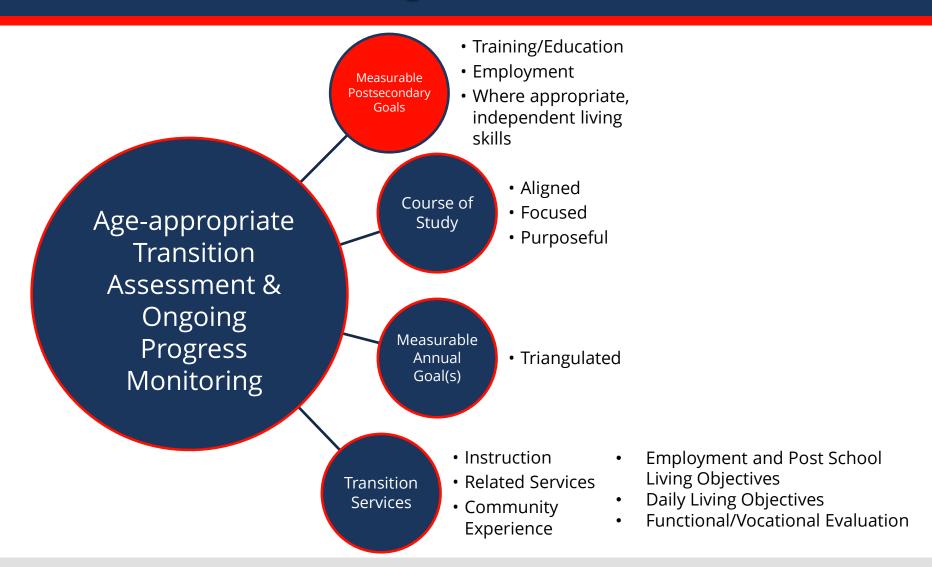


Area of Need: Transition

- In the IEP you are provided with three choices for the transition area of need:
 - Transition
 - Exposure
 - Prerequisite skills
 - Transition Vocational
 - How well does the student know their postsecondary goals
 - Do they know their strengths, needs, interests and preferences
 - Do they have the aptitude for that career/education path
 - Transition Functional Vocational
 - Soft skills
 - Executive functioning skills
 - Job skills



Transition Planning





Measurable Postsecondary Goals (MPSG)

- Student's postsecondary goal for:
 - Education/Training
 - Employment
 - Independent living skills (where applicable)
 - Community involvement (where applicable)
- Action statements that are <u>measurable</u> and <u>postsecondary</u>
 - "After high school I will enroll in ABC University and major in journalism."

This is a great opportunity for students to practice their self-advocacy skills in a professional, non-judgmental setting.



MPSG in the IEP

Student Name: Blake Test

DOB: 09/02/1999

TENNESSEE REFERENCE SYSTEM

IEP Meeting Date: 11/16/2015

Transition Services Planning (Age 14 or turning 14 during the IEP period)

Measurable Post Secondary Goals

Employment:

Will work in part-time employment - Following high school graduation, Jackson's next step will be to work part-time as a day laborer for a general contractor in the residential building industry.

Independent/Supported Living:

Will live with family - Following high school graduation, Jackson will live with his family. While he ultimately wants to live independently, after several budget planning sessions, he realizes that he will need to live with family while he works part-time and attends TCAT.

Post-Secondary Education/Training:

Will enroll in vocational technical school - Following high school graduation, Jackson's next step will be to enroll and attend the local TCAT center while also receiving on the job training as a part-time day laborer for a general contractor.

Community Involvement:

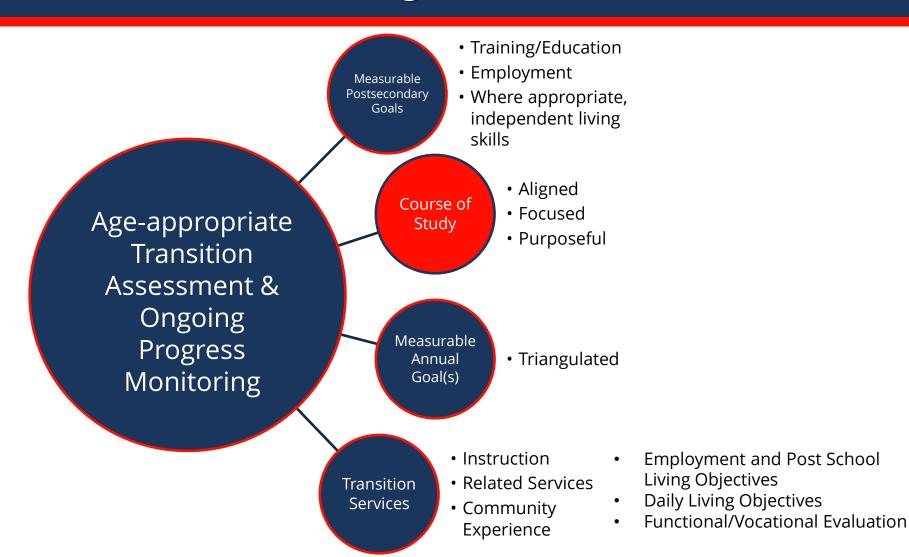
Will be independently mobile in the community and access services - Following high school graduation, Jackson will independently access his part-time job, the TCAT center, and the co-op to pick up supplies for the family farm. Jackson will also attend city council meetings to reinforce the skills he learned while in high school as a class officer and to gain knowledge about city government.





Activity 3 – Writing Measurable Postsecondary Goals

Transition Planning





Course of Study

- A four-year plan with direct alignment to the student's MPSGs
 - Academic courses
 - Focus area courses
 - Functional skills

Example:

- A student's MPSG for employment is to develop and manage web sites for local businesses. In addition to the core academic classes necessary for graduation, their course of study should include courses such as:
 - Information Technology Foundations
 - Web Design Foundations
 - Web Site Development
 - WBL Career Practicum



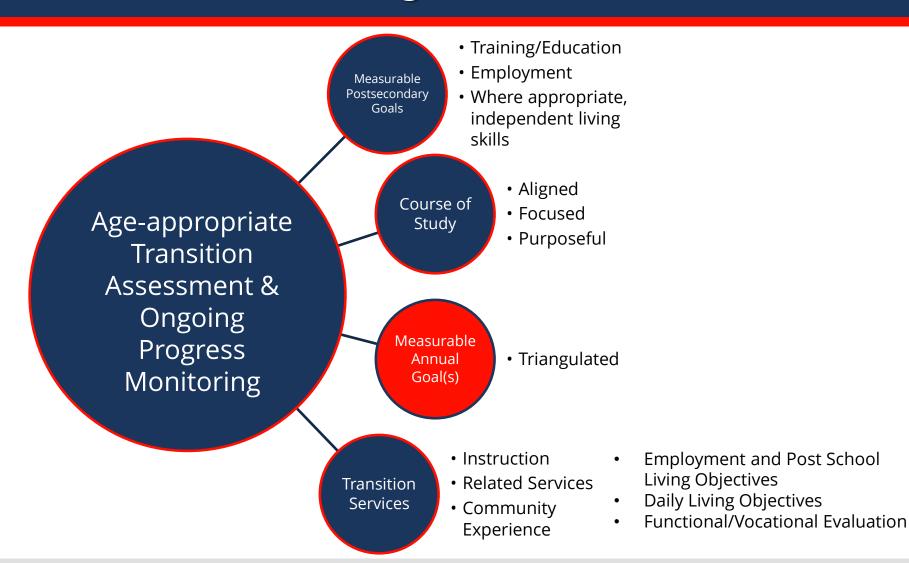
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Activity 4 – Review & Evaluate Course of Study

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Activity 5 – Write Course of Study

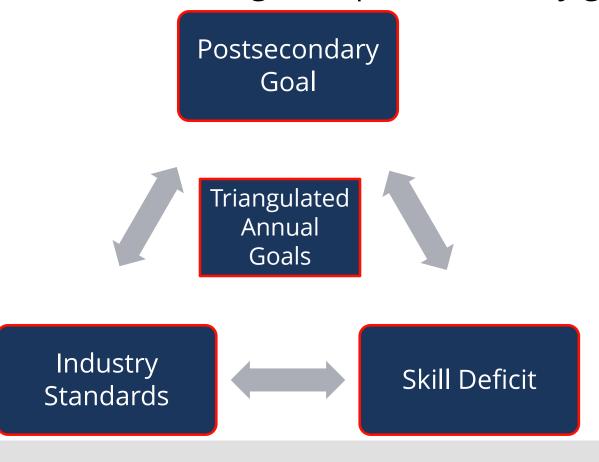
Transition Planning





Measurable Annual Goals

 Annual goals that will help the student make reasonable progress toward achieving their postsecondary goals





Measurable Annual Goals – Moving From Compliance to Outcomes

- Every annual goal in high school should support the student's MPSG
- For example:
 - MPSG employment goal for a student with multiple disabilities, including Intellectual Disability and receptive Language Impairments, is to work part-time in child care.
 - Measurable Annual Goals:
 - Jessica will listen to oral directions of four steps and follow them with no more than one prompt for 5 tasks per week measured weekly for 5 consecutive weeks by teacher data collection.
 - When given a grocery list with six items, Jessica will locate and purchase these items with 100% accuracy during four consecutive shopping trips as measured by teacher data collection every other week.



Measurable Annual Goals – Moving From Compliance to Outcomes

Example:

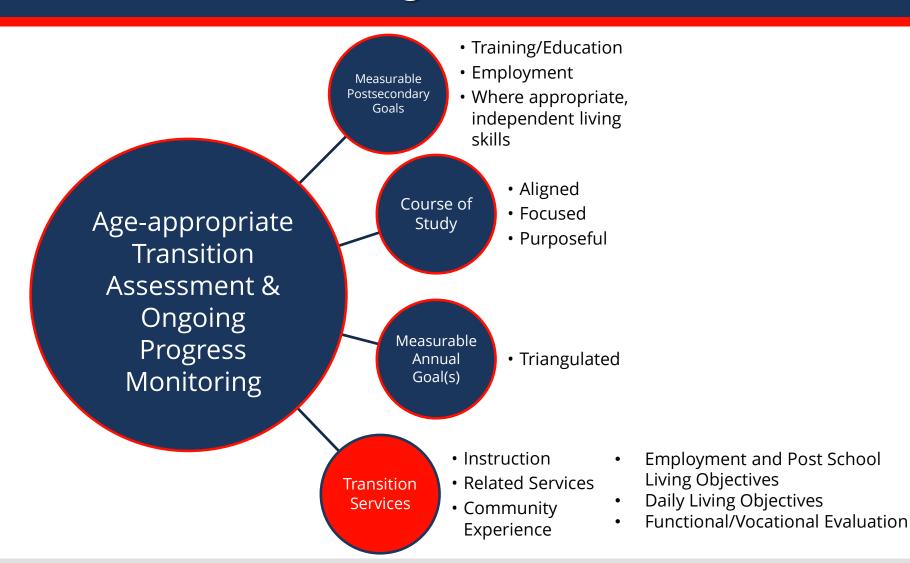
- A student with a Specific Learning Disability in basic reading skills has identified a MPSG for employment to work in the construction industry.
- Measurable Annual Goal:
 - Given that Jason wants to pursue a career in the construction industry, when given a list of 20 multisyllabic terms used in the construction industry, Jason will accurately decode and explain the meaning of each word with 100% accuracy for four consecutive data trials as measured every other week by a teacher created curriculumbased measure.



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Activity 6 – Write Measurable Annual Goals

Transition Planning





Transition Services

- A results-oriented process involving a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability and is focused on movement from school to postsecondary activities, education, employment, adult services, independent living or community participation.
- Instruction
- Related Services
- Community Experiences
- Employment and Post-school Living Objectives
- Daily Living Objectives
- Functional Vocational Evaluation



Transition Services - Examples

Instruction

- Social Skills Training
- Self-determination/Selfadvocacy training
- Career Tech Programs
- Computer Skills Instruction
- Employability Skills
- Community-based Instruction
- Research Colleges and/or Careers
- Budget/Money
 Management Training

Related Services

- Counseling to manage anger/behavior support
- Use of augmentative communication on a job site
- Work with school health nurse on medication management
- Participate in rehabilitation counseling
- Participate in orientation and mobility services
- Learn how to access services for college and/or employment settings



Transition Services - Examples

- Community Experiences
 - Visit colleges, technical schools, and businesses
 - Volunteer in the community
 - Use of public transportation
 - Participate in Work-Based
 Learning or job shadowing
 - Community-based instruction
 - Explore and tours of independent living options

- Employment and Adult Living
 - Career exploration or after school work
 - Managing health and medical needs
 - Housing and transportation
 - College planning
 - Money management
 - Apply to Vocation
 Rehabilitation Services
 - Attend transition/career fair
 - Meet with armed forces recruiter



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Activity 7 – Transition Service or Annual Goal

Agency Participation

- Most effective practice
- Required by law
 - To the extent appropriate, with the consent of the parents or a child who has reached the age of majority, the public agency must invite a representative of any participating agency that is likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services.



Vocational Rehabilitation: Pre-employment Transition Services

What are Pre-Employment Services?





Vocational Rehabilitation: Pre-employment Transition Services

Who will receive Pre-Employment Services?

Students

- age 14 through 22
- eligible for and receiving Special Education, or related services in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act and the Students with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA)

Students

 age 14 through 22, with a disability as defined under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act



Statewide Implementation in Collaboration with Education

Thru a strategic approach to student supports, together we are achieving successful employment outcomes for students with disabilities. Information Sharing **Integrating** evidence based predictors of Leveraging success resources & building capacity Local collaboration Align & enhance existing transition services/supports



Tennessee's VR is uniquely positioned to help youth with disabilities bridge the gaps in their transition to adulthood. Our VR staff have connections and community partners that can be resourceful for youth.







Working with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services Information for Teachers about Student Referrals

What are VR Services?

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program assists individuals with disabilities to prepare, engage, seek obtain, maintain and retain employment. In Tennessee the VR Program is located within the Department of Human Services, Division of Rehabilitation Services.

How may a student benefit from VR services?

The purpose of the VR program is to assess, plan, develop, and provide services to eligible individuals so that they can obtain, secure, maintain and retain employment.

How to refer a student to VR

A referral is the process of initiating VR services through contacting the VR counse for or local VR office. Contact information and how to find local office information is on the backside of this fiyer.

Which students should a teacher refer to VR?

Teachers are welcome to refer any student they feel may benefit from VR services in order to obtain and/or maintain employment. It is not required that a student be receiving special educa-

tion services in order to be eligible for VR services.

Wher should a teacher refer a student to VRI Students may be referred to VR as early as 14 years of age.

Is coment required for a VR referral?

Yes, written consent from legal guardians or students of legal age is required to initiate the referral process.

Please use your school districts own Individual's with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) release that compiles with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

What information will VR need for a referral?

Teachers know their students well and can provide information that will be beneficial to the student and VR counselor. Documentation that assists the VR counselor with becoming familiar with the student is especially helpful. The more you are able to share with VR about the student, the better.

Sarah Harvey| Pre-Employment Transition Services Director Division of Rehabilitation Services p. 615-770-5496 c. 615-626-1244 sarah.e.harvey @tn.gov

In order for VR to determine eligibility of a student for VR services, the following is needed, as VR services are highly individualized. This is an exhaustive list and not everything on the list is needed for every student.

Medical, psychological, and specialty evaluations (provide evidence of diagnosis, original Special Education Services certification form, and functional (imitations) "The three year re-evaluation provides

*The three year re-evaluation provides the original special education services

*The information for functional limitations will be found in teacher observation forms in re-evaluation packet and in the current IEP.

- Current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Education Plan
- == Current three year re-evaluation packet.
- Results of age-appropriate transition assessments (Present levels of performance)
- ⇒ Focused Plan of Study
- Transcript to include TCAP scores, EOC Scores, ACT Plan Scores, Writing Assessment Scores, and Otis Lennon Scores
- ACT Plan Program guide
- Attendance records for last year and current year
- Discipline Records for this year and previous year
- Behavior Assessments if completed in the last three years and current Behavior Plan
- Job history, including volunteer and paid/ unpaid work experience (can be Work Based Learning reports)

Individualized services cannot be provided until completion of the application and eligibility process and the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

If you do not have all of this information, please proceed with initiating the referral and provide as much as you are able.

What happens after a referral is made?

- VR will determine if a student is eligible for services within 60 days of receipt of all required documentation needed to complete a referral, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent the completion of the process within the 60 day timeframe.
- Following determination of eligibility, VR will begin the Employment Needs Assessment process to determine what the individual's employment goals are and what services are needed to obtain those goals.
- After a student is determined to be eligible and they are found to be in a priority category that is open, the Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) will be developed as early as possible.
- The IPE should be coordinated with the IEP in regards to identified goals, objectives and services.

Resources to share with Students & Families:

 Getting a Head Start with VR http://www.thearctn.org/Assets/Docs/Getting-a-Head-Start-Voc-Rehab.pdf

 Frequently asked Questions about RSA https://rsa.ed.gov/fags.cfm

Go to the VR webpage to find local office information at:

http://www.tennessee.gov/humanservices/topic/ vocational-rehabilitation

Contact VR's central office at:

Vocational Rehabilitation Services Citizens Plaza State Office Building, 12th floor 400 Deaderick Street,

Nashville, TN 37243-1403

Telephone: (615) 313-4891

(Long Distance): 1-800-270-1349 FAX: (615) 741-6508

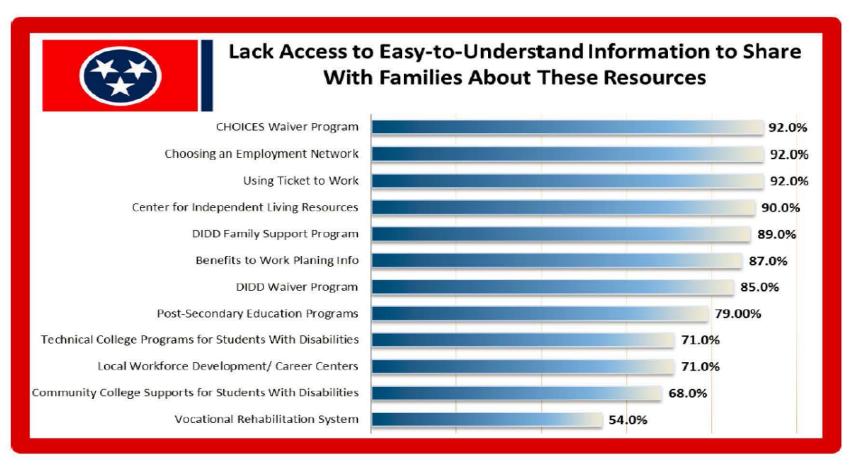


Potential Partners

- Information and advocacy agencies
- County human services agencies
- Residential service agencies
- State vocational rehabilitation service agencies
- Social Security Administration
- Postsecondary education/college disability service agencies
- Consultants with specialties related to specific disabilities
- Workforce centers
- Independent living centers



Agency Participation



^{*}This figure displays the percentage of teachers who said they DID NOT currently have easy-to-understand information to share with families about each resource.



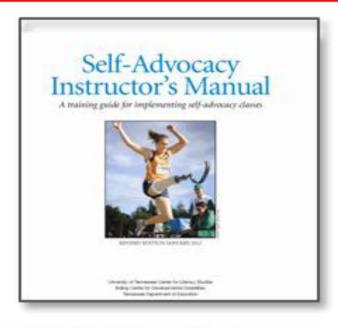
Tennessee Resources





Tennessee Resources









National Resources

- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition http://nsttac.org
- Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism http://csesa.fpg.unc.edu
- Think Work
 http://thinkwork.org
- National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition http://www.nasetalliance.org
- National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/Youth http://www.ncwd-youth.info
- Transition Coalition
 http://transitioncoalition.org





Post-Test

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Joann Lucero
Reading Intervention Specialist
Joann. <u>Lucero@tn.gov</u>

UTK Center for Literacy Education, and Employment

Crystal Godwin and Melvin Jackson
Transition Consultant and Self-Determination
Trainers
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Joann Runion
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Special Education Interventionist

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Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.