

# Secondary Transition

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# Agenda

- What is Transition?
  - Post Secondary Education
  - Employment
  - Independent Living
- What can I do to help?
- Resources



# What is Transition?

IDEA 2004 states that secondary transition is:

- “...a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is designed with a results-oriented process”
- promotes movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.

# Definition of Transition

Based on the individual student's needs, strengths, preferences and interests and.....



# Definition of Transition

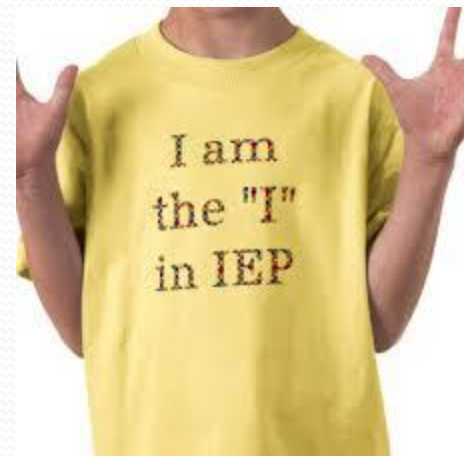
- Development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives
- When appropriate – acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation
- Including instruction, related services and community experiences

# Predictors of Post-Secondary Success

- Students' ability to maintain a paid job during high school years
- Involvement of students in their IEP and transition planning process
- Ability for students to understand their disability, strengths and needs
- Students having the opportunity to develop self-determination skills

# When do we begin to plan?

- Must occur no later than the first IEP when the student turns 14 years old
- Can begin earlier
  - Motivation
  - Course selection
  - Targeted ESY program
- Agencies



# Who is responsible?

- Transition team members include:
  - Parents
  - Students
  - General & Special Education Personnel
  - Agency Representative

The successful transition of students with disabilities is the responsibility of all members of the IEP Team and requires considerable collaboration.



# Pros of Student Involvement

- IDEA requires the students be involved in making choices concerning their transition plan
- Students are provided the opportunity to learn more about their strengths and skills and be able to share their goals
- Helps them learn more about their disability and to be part of the process of identifying supports
- Fosters a greater sense of ownership in the plan
- Provides motivation to continue to work on the goals

# Post Secondary Goals

- Post-secondary goals must match the student's graduation/exit option
- Course of study must support the post-secondary education/training, employment and if needed, the independent living goals of the student



# Post-Secondary Education

- Education is defined as enrollment in ...
  - Community College (2 year program)
  - College/University (4 year program)



# Post-Secondary Education

- Training is defined as
  - High school completing document or certificate class (Adult Basic Education, GED)
  - Short-term education or employment training program
  - Vocational Technical School
  - Certificate program (less than 2 years)
  - Continuing education/life long learning



# Employment

- Competitive
  - Full or part time
  - Integrated setting
  - Compensation at or above minimum wage
- Supported
  - Job coach
  - Integrated settings
  - Individuals with more significant disabilities
  - Volunteer opportunities



# Independent Living

- Skills necessary in order for an adult to function independently
  - Leisure/Recreation
  - Community Participation
  - Access – how do I get where I need to go?
  - Personal Hygiene



# Recipe for Quality Transition Plan

- Age appropriateness of activities
- Functional skills
- Skills that can be generalized (used in more than one environment or situation)
- Activities based on the student's preferences and interests
- Directly related to the outcomes of the transition plan





# Effective planning

“Effective transition planning depends on looking at your child as he/she is today and imaging what services and supports will be needed to achieve your child’s dreams tomorrow.”

Excerpt from – Secondary Transition: What Families Need to Know



# Bethel Park's CEO Program

- CEO program – Competitive Employment Options
- Our goal is to enable our students to develop competence, confidence and connections to increase opportunities for careers and community participation



# Bethel Park's CEO Program

- Experience gained in the workplace is instrumental in helping our students make career choices and to prepare them for the world of work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- The CEO Program offers various opportunities based on the student's needs
  - Volunteering
  - Job shadowing
  - Internships
  - Paid employment

**The CEO Program offers various opportunities based on the student's needs. These activities include:**

- Practical Assessment Exploration System
- Volunteering
- Job shadowing
- Internships
- Paid employment

# Bethel Park's CEO Program

- Person-centered planning
- Career awareness & exploration at earlier grades
- Community Based Instruction
- Employability skills
- Self advocacy
- Volunteering, job shadowing, internships, paid employment

# Agency & Community Partners

- Able & 21
- Giant Eagle
- ARC of Washington County
- Walgreen's
- Mon Yough Community Services
- PA Connecting Communities
- Steel Center AVTS
- Mon Valley
- Evey True Value Hardware
- Goodwill of Southwestern PA
- AIU
- OVR
- CLASS

# What can I do to help?

- Participate along with your child in the IEP process
- Talk to your child about the future and what he/she wants to be
- Help your child identify his/her own strengths and interests
- Help set realistic goals for your child
- Provide opportunities to make choices
- Help your child learn about his/her disability and how to ask for the supports he/she needs

# What can I do to help?

- Teach your child social skills such as how to accept constructive criticism and how to respond to authority
- Create opportunities for your child to be socially active in the community
- Help your child learn job-related skills such as punctuality, dressing appropriately & work ethic
- Learn about community agencies that provide services to support
- Keep a transition folder

# Resources

- [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org)
- [www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip](http://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip)
- [www.thinkcollege.net/](http://www.thinkcollege.net/)
- [www.going-to-college.org/](http://www.going-to-college.org/)
- [www.par.net](http://www.par.net)





# Questions??

