



Strategies to Promote High Expectations: Supporting Families

Sean Roy - PACER
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PACER

- ✓ Minnesota's Parent Training and Information center
- ✓ Home to PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment
- ✓ Partner in Think College Coordinating Center

www.pacer.org
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Warren Buffet

"Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago."



High Expectations Rooted in Legislation and Policy

“Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate or contribute to society.”

- ADA
- IDEA
- WIOA (“competitive, integrated employment”)

Arizona Examples

- **Olmstead Plan**
 - Focuses on elderly access to community supports
- **Human Rights Act**
 - Focuses mainly on SMI
- **Employment First**
 - Focuses on employment for persons with significant disabilities

Family Involvement Frameworks

- The Guideposts for Success
- NASET Standards
- Kohler’s Taxonomy (1996)
- U.S. DOE Dual Capacity Framework

Parent Expectations and Outcomes

- Students with one or more parents who participated in the IEP meetings during 11th and 12th grades were more likely to be engaged in post-school employment
- Students with parents who had HIGH EXPECTATIONS were more likely to be engaged in postsecondary education and employment

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Impact of Disability

Parents are likely to have strong feelings and questions about how disability will impact their youth's future.

- It's OK to modify hopes and dreams, but it is not OK to stop having hopes and dreams.

Things We Do...

- ABC's
- Lost radio
- Ouch
- Clothes have feelings too
- Trash instructions



Parental Expectations

What are the factors that influence what parents expect for their youth with a disability?

What do educators and other professionals do (knowingly or unknowingly) to influence this?





Dual Capacity

Consider focused efforts to help increase the capacity of families and professionals to:

1. Hold high expectations
2. Convey high expectations





High Expectations Work

- Led by NTACT
- Parents of youth with disabilities shared their stories and suggestions about maintaining high expectations for youth during transition planning process
- Put together in draft form


