



Setting High Expectations for Transition: Information for Families

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Learning Objectives

- What are “high expectations”
- Secondary transition planning
- Action steps for key transition areas
- Working with service providers
- What’s happening locally?
- Questions





“I’m not a professional. I don’t pretend to be. But I know my son.”





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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Longer Runway





Balancing Act

It is often difficult to balance the concepts of **HIGH** and **REALISTIC** expectations.



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Processes of Eligibility

Eligibility for needed services, especially in early childhood, rely heavily on parent response

- Skills and tools needed to become eligible, and to maintain eligibility, are very different from those needed for planning
- Parents learn to verbalize their child’s deficits (functional and academic)

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Shift in Thinking

Unlearning deficit thinking is an essential first step in setting high expectations for students with disabilities

- Shift from: Explaining and describing the *can't* and the *won't*
- To: Identifying and celebrating the *can* and the *will*

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Transition is....

Envisioning what students want to achieve in terms of education, employment, and living and designing opportunities to get them there.

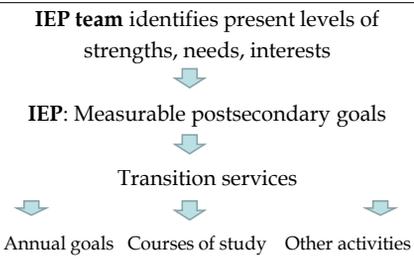
Texas Secondary Transition/Post-school Results Network



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Transition in the IEP

Transition in the IEP



The Pitfalls: The Enemy of High Expectations

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- Assumptions about ability
- One size fits all
- Not addressing strengths, interests, and needs
- Lack of resources
- Not utilizing families



Parent Action Steps

Parent Action Steps

- Know various components of IEP
- Establish vision for your youth
- Help them establish vision for themselves
- Strive to understand assessment data
- Be involved



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IEP Meeting

- Can be intimidating
- Jargon
- Rushed
- Not ideal time to get work done
- Deficit or strengths based?



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Parent Action Steps

- Don't be intimidated – you are a partner
- Youth should eventually drive the process if able
- Come with questions
- Ask questions
- Seek help if unsure



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High Expectations: Employment

- Everybody can work
- Work will look different for every person
- Should be rooted in what youth wants to do with their life

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Parent Action Steps

- Set expectation that your youth will work
- Work experiences
- Explore community supports if needed
- Practice selling their passion and skills
- Does IEP include employment goal?





High Expectations: Postsecondary Education

- Many jobs require it
- Opportunities are expanding
- Also good way to explore interest and be a lifelong learner





Parent Action Steps

- Encourage your youth to consider
- Explore assistive technology
- Learn about Disability Student Services
- Make sure it's a good fit before committing
- Plan for costs



High Expectations: Independent Living

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- What does your youth want their adult life to look like?
- Creativity often needed
- Consider all aspects, including social

Parent Action Steps

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Parent Action Steps

- Explore housing options
- Explore transportation options
- Financial literacy
- Manage health care
- Explore social and recreation outlets



Working with Service Providers

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Working with Service Providers

- They should be serving your child
- Services should be individualized
- Don't be afraid to ask for a change, but strive to work together



Working with Service Providers (2)

- Learn what they do and don't do
- Learn what they expect of your youth
- Learn who to call if you have questions or if you have a concern



Opportunities to Be Involved

The parent voice is critical to many state committees:

- Special Education Advisory Panel
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Statewide Independent Living Council
- Local/district committees

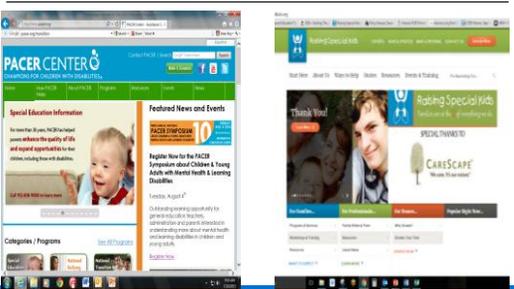
Arizona Initiatives

- Arizona Employment First
- Arizona Community of Practice on Transition (AZCoPT)
- Arizona Youth Leadership Forum
- Work Incentive Information Network (WIIN)
- Community created and led support groups
- ... and more

Parent to Parent



Resources



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