



**Improving Post-School Outcomes:
Evidence-Based Practices and Predictors
of Post-School Success**

Arizona Transition Conference
2016

IDEA Purpose

One purpose of this Act is:

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;...

IDEA Regulations §300.1(a)





Think-Pair-Share

How do you know the special education services you provide contribute to achieving this purpose of IDEA?





How do you know the special education services you provide contribute to achieving this purpose of IDEA?

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Begin with the End in Mind



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How Do We Get Students There?

- Committed, caring adults
- Persistent students and families
- Coordinated systems & services
- Purposeful transition programming
- High quality transition planning
- Meaningful, focused interagency-collaboration
- Utilizing evidence-based predictors & practices



Successful transition requires purposeful planning at all levels

 Transition services **a coordinated set of activities** for a child with a disability that ...

- (a) is designed to be within a **results oriented 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; and





Where to Start?

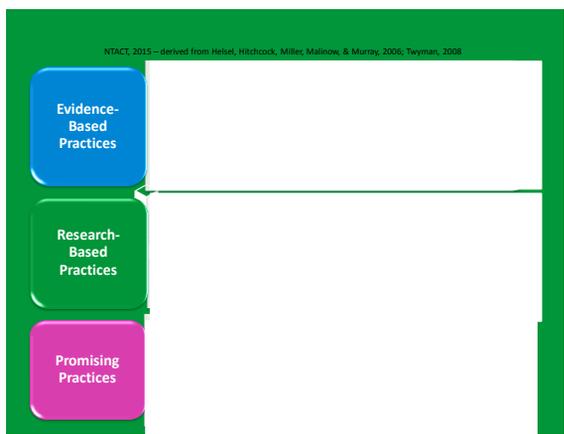




What Makes a Difference?

Developing, implementing, & evaluating secondary transition programs based on the best available evidence that supports positive post-school outcomes.







Research to Practice: What Has Been Done

- Originally identified 16 *evidence-based predictors* of post-school outcomes from research; continues to grow
- Identified 63 *evidence-based practices*
- Developed over 75 *Research-to-Practice Lesson Plan Starters* (<http://transitionta.org/researchpractices>)





PREDICTORS:
in-school interventions (e.g., programs) that lead to improved post-school outcomes; derived from correlation research studies.

PRACTICES:
instructional strategies derived from experimental research studies.



EBPs & Predictors to Support Post-School Success

Positive Post-School Outcomes

In-School Predictors of Post-School Success



Evidence-Based Practices





Look at the Predictors

Which evidence-based practices are currently used in your classroom, school, or district?



In-School Predictors by Post-School Outcome Area

Predictors/Outcomes	Education	Employment	Independent Living
Career Awareness	X	X	
Community Experiences		X	
Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma Status		X	
Inclusion in General Education	X	X	X
Interagency Collaboration	X	X	
Occupational Courses	X	X	
Paid Employment/Work Experience	X	X	X
Parental Involvement		X	
Program of Study		X	
Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination	X	X	
Self-Care/Independent Living	X	X	X
Social Skills	X	X	
Student Support	X	X	X
Transition Program	X	X	
Vocational Education	X	X	
Work Study		X	



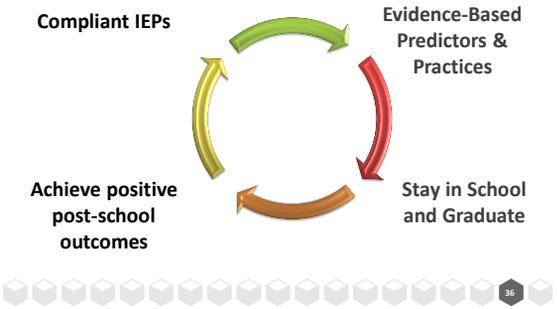
Using EBPPs at a District, School or Student Level

Evidence-based predictors and practices...

- Link secondary transition program characteristics to improved post-school success
- Can be used to:
 - Develop programs
 - Expand, evaluate, and strengthen existing programs
- Help IEP teams design annual goals and transition services that are more likely to help students achieve their stated post-school goals



Critical Interrelationship





Last Thoughts

- Post-school outcome data indicate overall successes and areas that need attention – further education or employment
 - Disaggregating outcome data (e.g., disability categories, gender) provides additional information for targeting specific groups
- There’s a relationship between student outcomes and in-school experiences
 - Predictors and practices connect best available research to practice
- As educators and service providers, we are responsible for students’ in-school experiences.





What Questions Do You Have?





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