Pathways for Postsecondary Settings: Keys to Unlocking Potential for Students with Disabilities

Presented by Lindsey Anderson

OSSE Division of Specialized Education
Secondary Transition Webinar Series

Objectives

- Identify successful strategies that enable students with disabilities to be successful in the postsecondary environment

- Identify various pathways to postsecondary life, including education

- Identify postsecondary resources that assist teachers and students

Guiding Questions

- How can we best prepare students for their postsecondary futures?

- What pathways are available to students selecting a postsecondary future?

- What resources are available to help students prepare for postsecondary education?

How can we best prepare students for their postsecondary futures?

Possible Strategies for Planning the Future

Daily Organization
- Completing and submitting assignments
- Preparing for tests
- Coordinating & developing schedules

Rise to Challenges
- Discovering areas of need
- Seeking help when needed with the right person
- Resolving conflicts appropriately

Postsecondary Goals
- Leading IEP Meetings
- Identifying accommodations
- Focusing & planning postsecondary goals
- Selecting appropriate postsecondary high school courses

(Hamblet, 2011)

What qualities do students need to be successful in postsecondary education?

Students need to have these intrinsic qualities:

- Confidence
- Persistence/Perseverance
- Resilience
- Self-Determination Skills
- Self-Discipline/Self-Regulation

(Getzel & Webb, 2012; Milsom & Dietz, 2009)

Making Postsecondary Choices

- Get ready to make decisions (e.g., self-determination, self-advocacy)

- Gather information about career options (work experiences, etc.)

- Decide if higher education is an option and consider the advantages and disadvantages of 2 and 4 year programs

- Locate financial aid (grants, loans, scholarships, work-study programs, *learn financial aid vocabulary)

- Explore Career-Technical Education (CTE) training

- OTHER (military, life skills, RSA)

Sources of Information for Postsecondary Education

- Educational Directories
- Guidance and Career Counselors
- Computerized Guidance Systems
- Private Educational Counselors
- School and Campus Visits/Virtual Tours

- Disability Support Services (DSS)
- Speak to a Current Student with a Disability
- College Fairs
- Internet/Websites
- Financial Aid and Scholarship

(Elksnin & Elksnin, 2010; Getzel & Briel, 2013)

Classroom Instructional Strategies

- Technical vocabulary instruction
- Multi-sensory teaching (seeing, hearing, speaking and touching)
- Reviews, previews, outlines
- Interactive class sessions
- Advance notice of reading assignments
- Notes, overheads, handouts, taped lectures
- Cues for reading comprehension
- Quiz, test, and exam preparation
- Assessment accommodations

Entitlement vs. Eligibility

Entitled

Students with disabilities have a right to access a free appropriate public education (FAPE)

Eligible

Students with disabilities have to provide documentation of a disability to be qualified to receive services at the postsecondary level

Differences in Legislative Protection

- Legal mandates in secondary schools do not "all" transfer to postsecondary environments

- Postsecondary environments are covered by different pieces of legislation

- Students need to know their rights and responsibilities under the law for each environment

Legislation

The Individuals with Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)

- Protects the rights from birth to age 21

- Requires a transition statement in the IEP beginning "no later" than age 16

- Appropriate, measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, independent living skills and transition services (including courses of study) to assist in reaching those goals

Legislation

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA)

- Upon graduation from high school, students are no longer protected under IDEA 2004
- IEP does not transfer to postsecondary institutions
- Requires that students leave with a Summary of Performance (SOP) documentation

Legislation

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (Workforce Investment Act)

- Civil Rights Law

- Protects against discrimination on the basis of disability

- Elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools that receive federal funding must comply with Section 504 and ADAAA

- Section 504 Plan does not transfer to the postsecondary institution

Legislation

Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA)

- Prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities

- Required to provide *reasonable accommodations* to students with disabilities

- Students usually can receive services through student support services or office of disability support services in postsecondary environments

Legislation

Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA)

- Reauthorized in 2008

- Authorizes the development for model demonstration programs and a coordinating center to provide further educational opportunities for students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID)

- Students with ID are eligible for Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and the Federal Work-Study Program to participate in comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs at colleges and career schools

(Grigal & Hart, 2010)

Secondary to Postsecondary Settings

Entitlement ➡ Eligibility

Guiding Question 2

What is a pathway and what pathways are available to help students select their postsecondary future ?

Definition of Pathways

- Students create their own "passage" to reach their postsecondary goals, based upon their interests, needs, and abilities.

- Families and transition personnel collaborate to create a coordinated set of activities that will link to adult services based upon the student's postsecondary goals.

- Pathways provide a framework for transition planning which includes academic/postsecondary education, career technical training, employment, and supported setting.

(Kochhar-Bryant & Greene, 2009; Vermont Family Network, 2008)

Career Pathways

- A coherent, articulated sequence of rigorous academic and career/technical courses, commencing in the ninth grade and leading to an associate degree, baccalaureate degree and beyond, and industry-recognized certificate and/or licensure.

- A framework that outlines a series of connected education and training programs and support services that enable individuals to secure employment with in a specific industry or occupational sector, and to advance over time to successively higher levels of education and employment in that sector.

(Hull, 2005 & Jenkins, 2006)

What are the major pathways to postsecondary life?

- Education

- Job Skill Preparation

- Life Skill Preparation

- Military Training

What pathways are available in postsecondary education?

- Four Year Colleges or Universities
  - Earn a Bachelor of Arts (BA)
  - Earn a Bachelor of Science (BS)

- Two Year Colleges
  - Associate's Degrees
    - Associate of Arts (AA)
    - Associate of Science (AS)

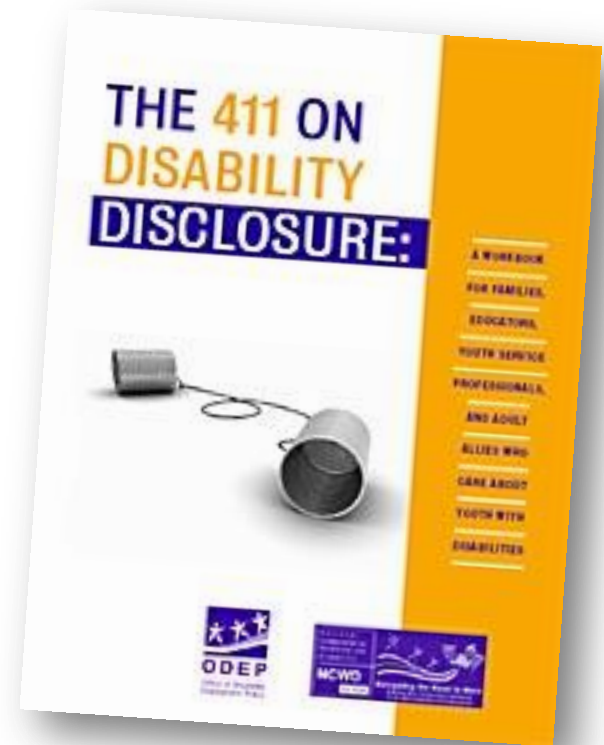- Continuing or Adult Education Classes
  - Certificate Programs

(Mattis & Taymans, 2009)

Consideration #1: Disclosure

The 411 on Disability Disclosure

- A workbook for youth with disabilities
- Informed decisions on disability disclosure
- Focuses on:
  - Self-Determination
  - Disclosure (advantages and disadvantages)
  - Rights and Responsibilities Under the Law

http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure

Office of Disability Support Services (DSS)

- Determine a student's eligibility to receive accommodations at a postsecondary institution

- Coordinate with faculty and staff with regards to student's needs in the classroom and residence halls

- Refer students to adult agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation

(HEATH Resource Center, 2006)

Important Tips on Postsecondary Disclosure

- Disability Support Services (DSS) need evidence of a student's disability from a psychoeducational evaluation report.

- Usually, the testing reports cannot be older than 3 to 5 years. Summary of Performance (SOP) *might* have recent information that would be sufficient.

- Students should submit documentation and related information in the summer to have services in place by fall.

- Students will not receive accommodations for an exam if they register with DSS the day before an exam.

(Hamblet, 2011)

Life Skills Training Programs

- Located on college campuses and in residential settings
- Life skills, workplace literacy, social skills development

Apprenticeships

- One to four year work and educational program
- Focus on a specific trade

Career, Vocational, or Technical Education

- Public and Private Institutions
- Earn certificate or associate's degree
- Focus on an occupational area

Job Corps

- Residential job training program for youth 16-24
- Gain academic and vocational skills
- Enrolled for few months to a couple of years
- Receive daily living stipend, room & board

What *other* pathways are available in postsecondary education?

City Year and Americorps

- Year long service program for youth ages 17-24
- Youth work for non-profits, governmental agencies and schools
- Gain work and marketable skills
- Receive stipend and educational award

Military

- Eligible to enlist in the military at 17
- Must pass entrance requirements
- Receive funding to obtain further education

(Mattis & Taymans, 2009)

Guiding Question 3

What resources are available to help students prepare for postsecondary education?
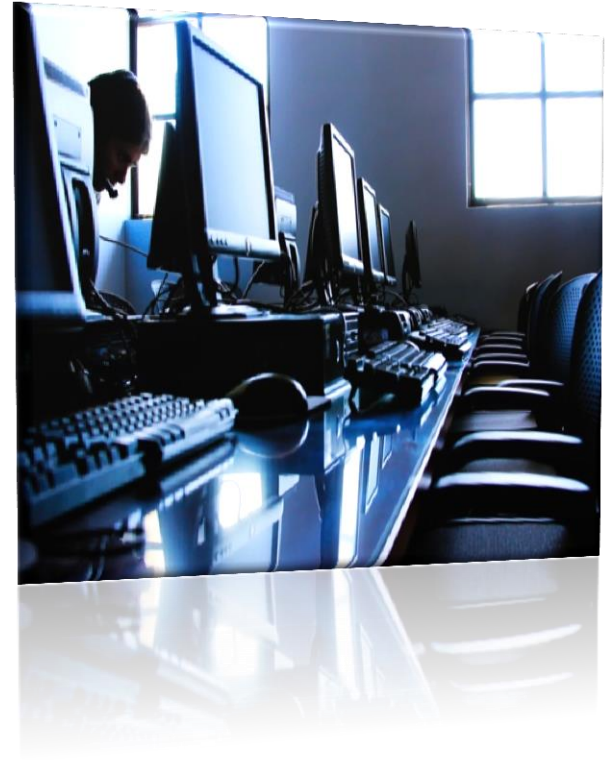
HEATH Resource Center

- HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center
- NYTC is part of The HSC Foundation's Youth Transitions Initiative
- Provides a centralized, national support system
- Provides resources and develops programming to support young people and returning veterans with disabilities as they enter the world of work and independence
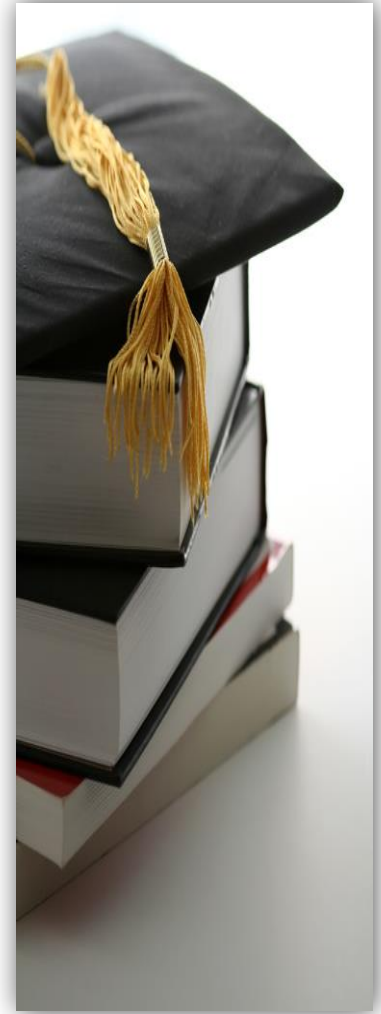
HEATH Website

- Home page **www.heath.gwu.edu**
- Email contact **askheath@gwu.edu**
- News, Events, Calendar
- Transition Modules
- Toolkit for Counselors
- Publications (Resource Papers, FAQs)
- Resources (Transition Website Directory)

The HEATH Resource Center Mission

- To assist consumers, educators and students in transition planning

- To provide resources in the research of postsecondary options

- To act as a clearinghouse for individuals, professionals and organizations

HEATH's Student Transition Modules

- 30 self-directed training modules for secondary students transitioning out of high school and into college

- Learn about transition, college preparation, and campus services for students with disabilities

- Online learning, simple instructional strategies, in-depth instruction of the issues, and online resources

- www.heath.gwu.edu

HEATH's Student Transition Modules

Topic	Title
Awareness of Postsecondary Options	Knowing Your Options: What to do and Where to go
Community College	Community College: An Excellent Option for Students with Disabilities
Career Technical Vocational Education	Opportunities in CTE at the Postsecondary Level
College Application Process	Getting into College: What Students with Disabilities Want to Know
Financial Aid	Show Me the Money! Options for Paying for College
Legal Issues	The Laws: What Do They Have To Do With You?
Accommodations	Academic and Co-Curricular Accommodations in College

Guidance and Career Counselors Toolkit

- Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options
  - Part 1: Tools for Counseling SWD
  - Part 2: Services and Strategies for SWD
  - Part 3: College, Career and Other Postsecondary Options
  - Part 4: Procedural Concerns for Successful Transitions
  - Part 5: Appendices (weblinks and additional tools)
- Vetted by the Department of Education, 2006 (two year process)
- Available on-line for download at http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/33/toolkit.pdf

Publications

HEATH Publications

- 2013 WTCS Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Guidelines

- Power in Numbers: A Profile of American Voters with Disabilities

- Career Investigations for Transitioning Youth

- 2013 Summer Pre-College Programs

- 2013-2014 HEATH Financial Aid Information

- WTCS Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Guide

Directory of Transition Websites

The FAB Five Websites:

- HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center: http://www.heath.gwu.edu

- National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability: http://www.ncwd-youth.info/

- ThinkCollege!: http://www.thinkcollege.net/

- Disability.Gov: https://www.disability.gov/

- Youthhood: http://youthhood.org

Closing

- Employment is the ultimate outcome of postsecondary education!

- Postsecondary education goals must aligned to academic goals; there MUST BE a connection.

- Student awareness, knowledge of appropriate academic supports and learning strategies can provide students with the tools to be successful in the postsecondary education environment.

- Growth and maturity are unintended and intended outcomes that everyone gains in the process of transitioning to postsecondary life.

National Resources

- Department of Labor—Apprenticeship Programs
  - http://oa.doleta.gov/bat.cfm?start
  - http://www.doleta.gov/OA/sainformation.cfm
- Job Corps: http://www.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx
- City Year and Americorps:
  - http://www.cityyear.org/home-WhatWeDo.aspx
  - http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps
- ThinkCollege!: http://www.thinkcollege.net

National Resources

- College Board: http://www.collegeboard.org

- College Scorecard: http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/

- College Affordability and Transparency Center: http://collegecost.ed.gov/catc/

- American Association of Community Colleges: http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Pages/default.aspx

- Community Colleges by State: http://www.utexas.edu/world/comcol/state/

- Peterson's Guide to Colleges: http://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx

National Resources

- Going to College http://www.going-to-college.org/
- Federal Student Aid—Resources
  http://studentaid.ed.gov/resources
- Federal Student Aid—College Preparation Checklist
  http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/Coll_Prep_Checklist_3MB.pdf

National Resources

- Assistive Technology in College
  http://www.ncld.org/college-aamp-work/post-high-school-options/transitioning-to-college/getting-access-to-assistive-technology-in-college

- What's it Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors
  http://www9.georgetown.edu/grad/gppi/hpi/cew/pdfs/whatsitworth-complete.pdf

National Resources

- DREAM (Disability Rights, Education, Activism and Mentoring) http://dream.syr.edu/index.html

- Off to College: Tips for Students with Visual Impairments http://www.pacer.org/parent/php/php-c170.pdf

- Getting Accommodations at College: Tools for School for Students with Mental Health Challenges http://labs.umassmed.edu/transitionsRTC/Resources/publications/Accomodationstipsheet2.pdf

- Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/50/pse_id_final_edition.pdf

National Resources

Military

- Army: http://www.goarmy.com

- Navy: http://www.navy.com

- Airforce: http://www.airforce.com

- Coast Guard: http://www.gocoastguard.com

- Marines: http://www.marines.com/#hps02

- National Guard: http://www.nationalguard.com/

Local Resources

- Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Website: http://dds.dc.gov

- Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Website: http://dds.dc.gov

- Reach4Success. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. Website: http://www.reach4success.org/index.html

- DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG). Website: www.tuitiongrant.dc.gov

Local Resources

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). U.S. Department of Education. Website: www.fafsa.ed.gov

- District of Columbia College Access Program (DC CAP). Website: www.dccap.org

- DC College Savings Plan. Website: www.dc529.com

- George Mason LIFE Program: http://masonlife.gmu.edu/

Postsecondary Planning Resources

- **Essentials of Transition Planning** (2011). Author: Paul Wehman. Brookes Publishing Inc.

- **Guidance and Career Counselors' Toolkit** (2006). Author: HEATH Resource Center.

- **Handbook of Adolescent Transition Education for Youth with Disabilities** (2012). Edited by: Michael L. Wehmeyer & Kristine Webb

- **Life Beyond the Classroom: Transition Strategies for Young People with Disabilities** (2013). Author: Paul Wehman

- **Navigating College: A Handbook on Self-Advocacy** (2011). Author: The Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Postsecondary Planning Resources

- **Pathways to Successful Transition for Youth with Disabilities** (2009). 2nd Edition. Authors: Carol Kochhar-Bryant and Gary Greene.

- **Preparing Students with Disabilities for College Success. A Practical Guide to Transition Planning** (2010). Authors: Stan Shaw, Joseph Madaus, & Lyman Dukes, III.

- **Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond** (2009). Authors: Sarah Hooker and Betsy Brand. American Youth Policy Forum.

- **7 Steps for Success: High School to College Transition Strategies for Students with Disabilities** (2011). Elizabeth Hamblet. Council for Exceptional Children.

Postsecondary Planning Resources

- **Teaching Transition Skills in Inclusive Schools** (2013). Authors: Teresa Grossi & Cassandra Cole. Brookes Publishing Company.

- **Think College! Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities** (2010). Authors: Meg Grigal & Debra Hart. Brookes Publishing Company.

- **Transition of Students with Disabilities to Postsecondary Education: *A Guide for High School Educators*** (2011). Author: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html

- **Transition to Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities** (2009). Authors: Carol Kochhar-Bryant, Diane Bassett, & Kristine Webb. Corwin Press & DCDT.

- **Universal Design for Transition** (2009). A Roadmap for Planning and Instruction. Authors: Colleen Thoma, Christina Bartholomew, and LaRon Scott. Brookes Publishing Company.

Wrap-up

- How can we best prepare students for the postsecondary futures?

- What pathways are available in postsecondary settings?

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