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

Presented by Lindsey Anderson
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?
Guiding Question 1

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
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
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
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
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 within 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)
What other pathways are available in postsecondary education?

**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
What other pathways are available in postsecondary education?

**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

(Mattis & Taymans, 2009)
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](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)
- Email contact [askheath@gwu.edu](mailto: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

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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
The FAB Five Websites:

- HEATH Resource Center at the National Youth Transitions Center: [http://www.heath.gwu.edu](http://www.heath.gwu.edu)
- National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability: [http://www.ncwd-youth.info/](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/)
- ThinkCollege!: [http://www.thinkcollege.net/](http://www.thinkcollege.net/)
- Youthhood: [http://youthhood.org](http://youthhood.org)
• 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

• 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](http://www.collegeboard.org)
• American Association of Community Colleges: [http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.aacc.nche.edu/Pages/default.aspx)
• Community Colleges by State: [http://www.utexas.edu/world/comcol/state/](http://www.utexas.edu/world/comcol/state/)
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
National Resources

• Assistive Technology in College

• What’s it Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors
National Resources

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


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](http://dds.dc.gov)

• Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). Website: [http://dds.dc.gov](http://dds.dc.gov)


• DC Tuition Assistance Grant Program (DCTAG). Website: [www.tuitiongrant.dc.gov](http://www.tuitiongrant.dc.gov)
Local Resources

- 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


• **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


Postsecondary Planning Resources


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

Wrap-up

• How can we best prepare students for the postsecondary futures?
• What pathways are available in postsecondary settings?
References


References


