Erik Carter, Ph.D. Vanderbilt University







Equipping Youth with Disabilities for the World of Work
Engaging Youth, Schools, and Communities to Improve Transition Outcomes

1

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (2004)

...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...

2

Our Charge

"Improving educational results for children with disabilities is an essential element of our national policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities."

3

The Individuals with Disabilities **Education Improvement Act**

Transition is a "coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that 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...

- · post-secondary education
- · vocational education
- integrated employment (including supported employment)
 continuing and adult education
- adult services
- · independent living
- · or community participation"



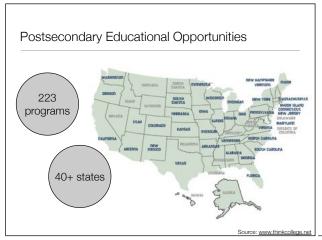


Indicator 14



How Far We've Come... How Far Still to Go...

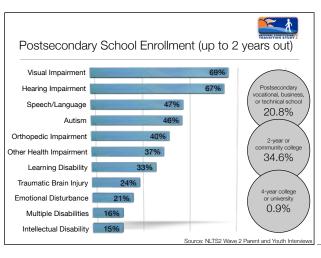
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I'm Thinking College



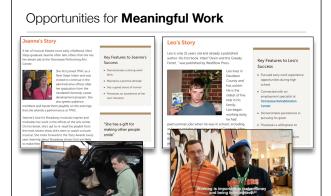






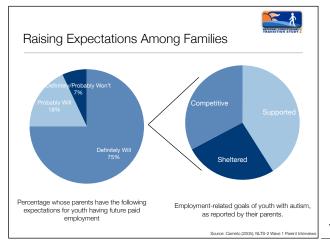


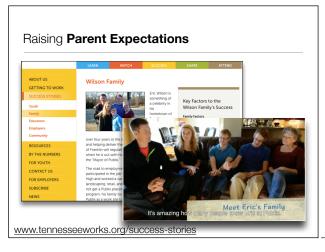
http://tennesseeworks.org/resources/videos/

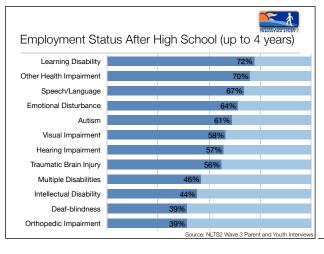


www.tennesseeworks.org/success-stories

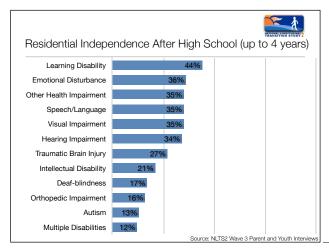


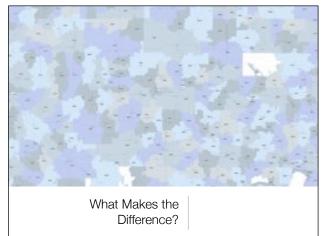




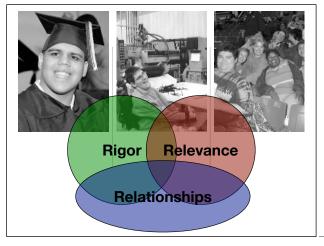








Other (Free) Evidence-Based Guides • Evidence-Based Practices and Predictors in Transition National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center www.nsttac.org • Guideposts for Success National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability/Youth www.ncwd-youth.info • National Standards & Quality Indicators National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition www.nasetalliance.org



A Sampling of Important Transition Practices



- 1. Access to the General Education Curriculum
- 2. High Expectations for Students
- 3. Youth Leadership in Educational and Transition Planning
- 4. Self-Determination Skills and Opportunities
- 5. Early Career Development and Work Experiences
- 6. Extracurricular Involvement
- 7. Friendships and Supportive Peer Relationships
- 8. Collaboration and Systems Linkages
- 9. Parent and Family Involvement
- 10. Caring Teachers and Mentors
- 11. Natural Supports and Partners in the Community

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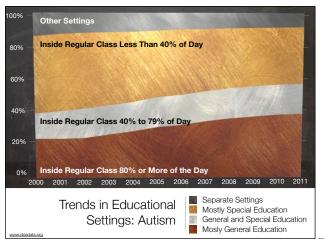


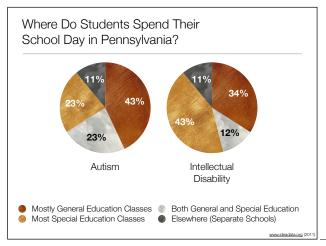
Rigor & Relationships

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(5) Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by—			
(A) having high expectations for such children and ensuring their access to the general education curriculum in the regular classroom, to the maximum extent possible, in order to—			
(i) meet developmental goals and, to the maximum extent possible, the challenging expectations that have been established for all children; and			
(ii) be prepared to lead productive and independent adult lives, to the maximum extent possible;			
Individuals with Disabilities			

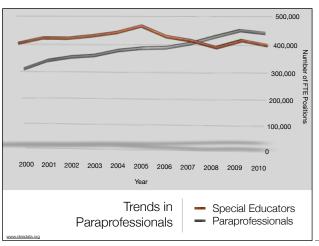
Education Improvement Act











Be Careful that Supports Do Not Inadvertently

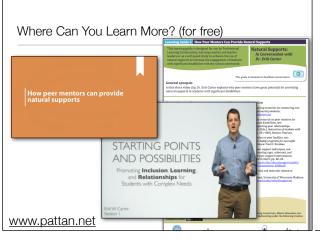
- · Set students apart
- Decrease contact between students general education teachers, club leaders, or other staff
- Hinder student learning and achievement
- Encourage unnecessary dependence on adults (i.e., limit selfdetermination)
- Limit students' social interactions with their classmates

wantand this article at: http://www.rum.odu/_cdoi/auclus/?Pana-nmdurte.h

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Peer-Mediated Supports and Interventions

- Identify students with disabilities who need assistance
- Recruit peers from within the same classroom or club
- Arranging for students to sit next to and work with one another
- Hold an orientation and training session for students
- Provide ongoing monitoring, feedback, and assistance to peers and their partners, as needed
- Shift paraprofessionals to a broader support role within the classroom





Relevance

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IDEA (2004) and the Transition Mandates

The coordinated set of activities must:

- (a) be based on the individual child's needs;
- (b) take into account the child's **strengths**, **preferences**, and **interests**; and
- (c) includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

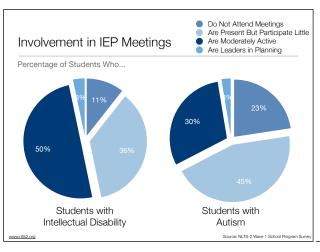


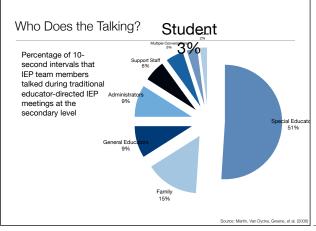
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Engaging Students in Educational Planning

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Self-Determination Skills and Opportunities

- · Choice-making
- · Decision-making
- · Problem-solving
- Goal-setting and attainment
- Self-management
- · Self-advocacy and leadership
- Self-awareness & self-knowledge



 $\frac{http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/pdfs/}{FosteringSelfDetermination.pdf}$

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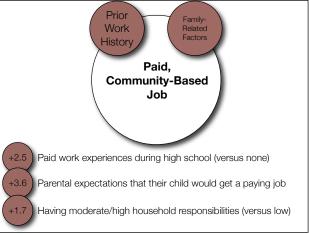


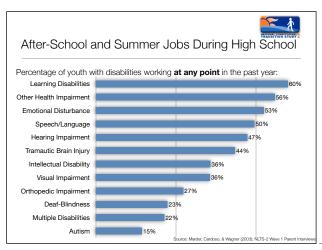


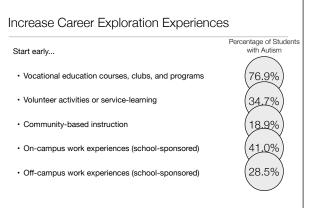


Early Career Development and Work Experiences

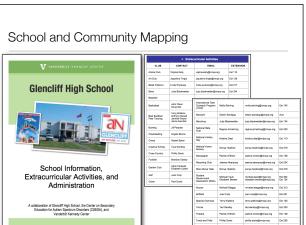
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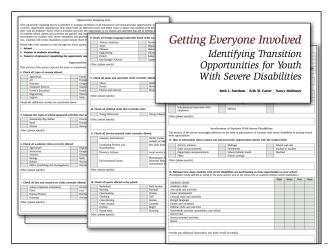














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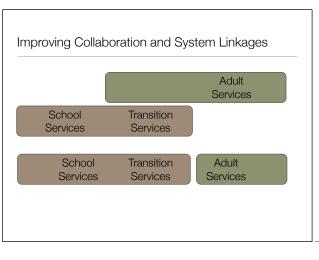


(More) Relationships Beyond the School

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With Adult Services and Community Agencies





With Parents and Families

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With Community Partners & Natural Supports



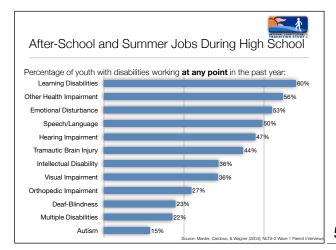




Bringing it All Together An Example from Project Summer



Summer Employment Opportunities...



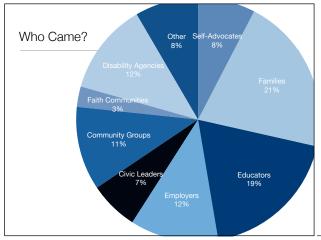




Strategy #1 Community Conversations

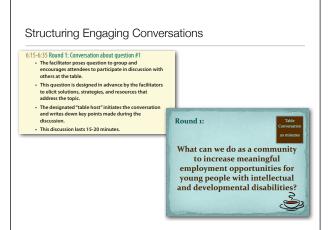


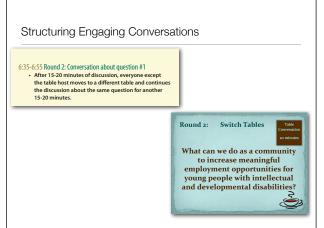


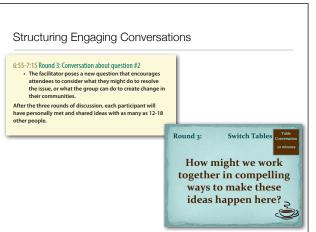












Structuring Engaging Conversations 7:15-8:00 Harvest • A large-group discussion of the best ideas, resources, and strategies is held. Ideas are posted on a large poster-sized piece of paper for the group to see. In most situations, the facilitator or another organizer shares the key points of the conversation via e-mail with the attendees at a later date. 65 TA med ling letter to explain A mediany set the benefits to Lengto yers. Then questionnaire on employment much. Employers would work. Schools need hebmarkely 66 67 Why Do This? • Raises community awareness of an issue • Brings new players to the table · Generates new ideas · Generates a list of "first steps" • It is actually fun! (even for hosts!)



www.tennesseeworks.org https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/naturalsupports/resources.php

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Strategy #2 Resource Mapping

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Resource Mapping

- Helps youth, families, and school/ transition teams identify all available community supports and resources:
 - · Disability-related services
 - · Generic services and supports
 - Employment and volunteer opportunities
 - Social and recreational options

What Might Be the Focus of Your Map?

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Mapping a Community

- · Community conversations feed the map
- Seed the map with an initial structure and content
- · Survey the community
- Make it a "living" or "evolving" document
- Has to be informed by parents, teachers, others who know about opportunities that exist in the community





Resources for Developing Resource Maps







www.ncset.org

www.sesp.northwestern.edu/abcd/kellogg/

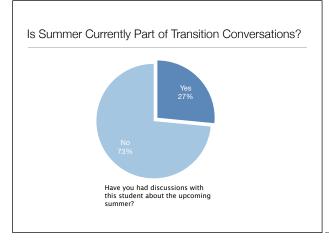
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Why Do This?

- Helps document many "unspoken" resources--makes them public for everyone
- Brings together disconnected and fragmented efforts into one place
- Invites new partners into this work (i.e. 4-H, Scouts, employers)
- Gets info into the hands of youth and families



Strategy #3 Intentional Planning



Audent	School		
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. Who was part of this meeting/conversation?			
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		(role/relation to student)	
		(role/relation to student)	
		(role/relation to stydent)	
		(role/relation to student)	
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Short-lessy/Summer Glook	What are some possible places in our community to do this?	Who do we already knowor need to seek outwho might help?	What supports or resources are needed to make this happen?	Who will take responsibility for following up on that?
-				
		1		
		8		
2.				
		8		
3.				
		1 9		
Consider some of the following:	sustant when Roding about the supp	ork and recovers the student might need.		
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 Are there transportate 		ers, or other seven that need to be conside	red	
* What miss will fin the	fert play connecting to this joint Formity	marriand Tambanif A livenass represents	tof	

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Why Do It?

- Focuses on specific time frame often not discussed by schools
- · Prompts early planning
- Increases youth/family buy-in
- Provides important logistical information school teams need to effectively locate opportunities
- Provides mechanism to ensure needed experiences, supports and connections are identified
- Focuses on strengths and potential contributions

Intellectual disability is "a disability characterized by

SIGNIFICANT LIMITATIONS

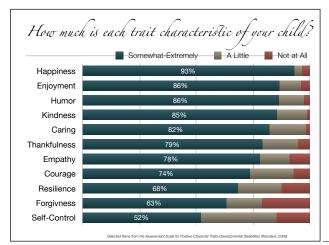
both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior, which covers many everyday social and practical skills." AAIDD definition (2010)

Autism is characterized by...

- DEFICITS in social-emotional reciprocity; ranging from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back and forth conversation through reduced sharing of interests, emotions, and affect and response to total lack of initiation of social interaction,
- DEFICITS in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction; ranging from poorly integratedverbal and nonverbal communication, through abnormalities in eye contact and body-language, or deficits in understanding and use of nonverbal communication, to total lack of facial expression or gestures.
- DEFICITS in developing and maintaining relationships, appropriate to developmental level (beyond those with caregivers); ranging from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit different social contexts through difficulties in sharing imaginative play and in making friends to an apparent absence of interest in people
 APA proposed definition (2012)

Rethinking our Introductions

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Strategy #4 Community Connectors

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Community Connectors

- Attend the Community Conversation and suggest others to invite
- · Facilitate student planning meetings
- Identify interests and goals with student and develop a plan to help youth meet those goals
- Collaborate with Business Liaison to identify job options
- Make connections to link youth to summer opportunities
- Follow-up with youth and others to make sure progress is being made

Why Do This?

- Ensures someone will follow up on intentional planning and make actual connections
- Designates a lead person to explore community opportunities and resources
- · Creates a "point person" for families
- · Creates a "point person" for the business community

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Strategy #5 Business Liaison

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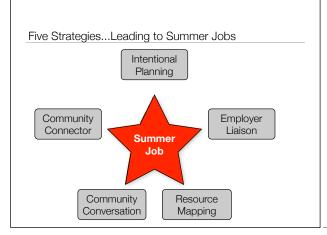
Why Do This?

- Relationships, relationships, relationships
- Provides perspective of someone who knows business needs
- Provides a resource and help to teachers so they don't have to do it
- Identifies jobs that youth and families would otherwise not find or know about

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Chambers of Commerce as Natural Supports?

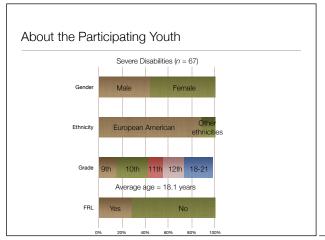
	Youth with Disabilities	Youth
co-sponsor a job fair	35.6%	55.4%
co-sponsor a job shadowing day or career exploration event for youth	50.0%	58.4%
help match youth to job openings in the community	27.1%	46.3%
create a directory of employers with jobs or internships available to youth	35.0%	51.4%
provide feedback to teachers on their career development/vocational programs	43.1%	55.9%
offer mock interviewing or resume writing practice for youth	40.0%	53.8%
include information about the school's vocational program on our website/newsletters	71.9%	76.5%
help raise funds for the local high school(s) to expand their employment	22.0%	20.6%
invite guest speakers from the high school to talk about the employment	59.3%	63.6%
offer "job shadow" experiences to youth	56.9%	75.0%
provide paid or unpaid work experiences for youth	38.7%	52.9%
speak to other employers about their positive experiences hiring youth	50.9%	58.0%
meet with schools to talk with youth about what businesses are looking for in	43.1%	63.2%
develop on-the-job training programs	22.8%	26.1%
the benefits of hiring youth	55.0%	54.4%
tax incentives for hiring youth	45.8%	-
ways to recruit youth as employees	48.3%	51.5%
supports provided by schools to employers who hire youth	50.0%	46.3%





How Did Youth Fare?

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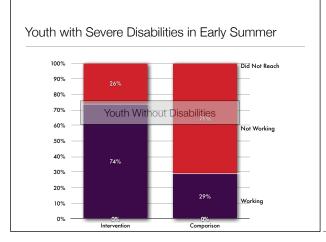


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Schools and Recruitment

- 7 rural, suburban, and urban high schools
- Average enrollment: 1910 students (SD = 587)
- Free and reduced lunch: 14.2%(SD = 9.7%)
- Students with disabilities: 12.4% (SD = 3.6%)

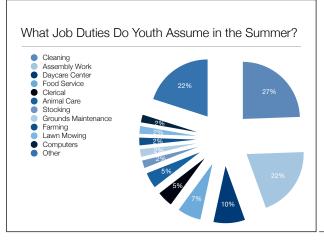




Job Characteristics of Youth with Severe Disabilities

	Intervention
Hourly Pay	\$0.25 above minimum
Average Hours	11.7
Checked on?	76.9%
Started in Spring?	46.2%

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Some Questions to Consider

- Where are the rigorous and relevant learning opportunities in your schools or community?
- What opportunities do students have to develop valued relationships with their peers?
- What instruction and supports do youth with autism need access these same opportunities?
- What (and who) do educational teams need to know to put these priorities into practice?

