

project10

transition
education
network

March 2018**Volume 7, Issue 3**

PROJECT 10 TOPICAL BRIEFS are published on a bi-monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme, highlighting current and upcoming information and events related to secondary transition. This month the Topical Brief is focused on improving graduation and dropout rates.

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Buzzworthy Improvement: Graduation Statistics for Students with Disabilities

First, let's talk "big picture". In 2006-07, the graduation rate for students with disabilities was 39%. In 2016-17 the graduation rate for students with disabilities rose to 66%. A 27% increase in graduates is something to celebrate. What a difference a decade makes!

Now let's zoom in on the details. The improvements in graduation rates that we've seen in the past decade didn't happen with one giant brushstroke. They happened in daily increments of dedication, attentiveness and hard work from teachers, district personnel, students, families, communities and related agencies, who all contributed in big and small ways to higher graduation rates for students with disabilities.

So, pat yourself on the back. Remember that your hard work is making a difference. Store away that positive energy as you contemplate the growth that lies ahead, such as the following:

- Continue to increase the number of students with disabilities to graduate from high school.
- Decrease the graduation gap between all students and students with disabilities.
- Ensure that Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are soundly designed to successfully guide students through high school and on to postsecondary activities.
- Increase the number of students who are engaged in post-school activities such as training, postsecondary education and competitive employment.



Project 10 Technical Assistance: Support for Improving Graduation and Dropout Rates

Project 10 partners with school personnel, families, students, agencies, community organizations, postsecondary institutions and other discretionary projects to promote positive transition practices in Florida. To that end, Project 10 provides technical assistance to improve graduation and dropout rates at the school and district level. Project 10's Regional Transition Representatives are available to assist you to use your data strategically to plan to prevent students from dropping out and increase rates of graduation for students with disabilities.

Three key areas of technical assistance are to assist school and district personnel in working with the following:

- Improve data collection, analysis and data-driven decision-making
- Develop an early warning system to support and monitor student progress toward graduation

- Coordinate with existing initiatives and systems

Contact your Project 10 Regional Transition Representative to arrange technical assistance or training. Contact information is available on our [website](#).

Tool 5: Data Capacity and Analysis					
Graduation Rate Report Capacity			Dropout Prevention Report Capacity		
Able to run reports containing the following variables:			Able to run two reports: 1) prevention and 2) retrieval containing the following variables:		
Data variable	Yes	No	Data variable	Yes	No
By cohort			All 9 th through 12 th graders		
By high school			By high school		
Student name			Student name		
Student age			Student age		
Student grade			Student grade		
Diploma option			Diploma option		
ESE classification			ESE classification		
Number of credit earned			Number of credits earned		
GPA			GPA		
Attendance			Attendance		
Failing course			Failing course		
FCAT scores			Discipline records		
EOC scores			Withdrawal codes: DNE, W05, W13, W15, W18, W21, W22, W23		

Project 10 Professional Development and Training: Support for Improving Graduation and Dropout Rates

Project 10 also promotes best practices in transition through professional development and training. Two Project 10 trainings recommended to assist school and district personnel to improve graduation and dropout rates are as follows:

Using School-level Data to Increase Graduation Success of Students with Disabilities: An Early Warning System (EWS)

This training details how schools and districts can use EWS data to promote timely graduation and post-school success. This training includes information on how to access and utilize data to impact graduation rates at the school level and interventions to help students graduate. In addition, effective practices implemented in other districts across the state will be shared. (2-3 hours)

This training is also available through an online course available at Project 10's Online Training webpage.

It's T.I.M.E. for Dynamic Dropout Prevention: Scaling up Student Engagement and School Climate for Student Success

This training reviews federal uniform graduation and dropout rate calculations, explains strategies to increase student engagement that result in decreased dropout rates (e.g., EWS) and describes dropout withdrawal codes including helpful hints on locating and re-engaging students who have dropped out. (2-3 hours)

Contact your Project 10 Regional Transition Representative to arrange technical assistance or training. Contact information is available on our [website](#).



Re-Charging Your Batteries

"Even the best work can wear us down" (Eva, 2018). The anecdotal evidence of our personal experiences support this statement. The work we do to assist students with disabilities to transition effectively to post-school life is meaningful and purposeful and, yet, sometimes we get weary. In an online article in *Greater Good Magazine*, Amy L. Eva (2018) offers suggestions for renewing inspiration and purpose. The following is a summary of Eva's recommendations:

- Revisit your story: Remind yourself of why you became involved in your work. Remember how your work has positively impacted students.
- Reflect on your favorite mentor: Recall the reasons that caused you to admire and respect your mentor and how this person impacted the professional you have become.
- Connect with colleagues: None of us can accomplish this work alone. We need each other for formal and informal support.
- Prioritize your well-being: Educators are notoriously known to prioritize the needs of others above their own, but studies show that you need good self-care to be at your best.
- Create a resilience plan: Because resilience is an ongoing, dynamic process of adaptation and growth, you can choose to develop a plan that cultivates it. Checkout this [article](#) on developing resilience for some ideas about how to foster resilience within yourself.



Resources

[Academic Evidence-Based Practices](#)

The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) summarizes evidence-based practices that support academic learning. Explore and implement these practices to support improved graduation rates.

[The Attendance Imperative: How States Can Advance Achievement by Reducing Chronic Absence](#)

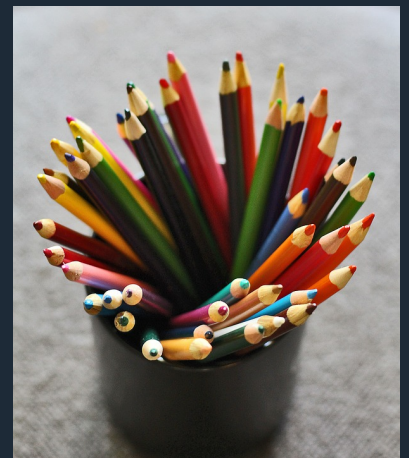
This brief describes the steps that districts can take to reduce chronic absence in schools.

[Attendance Works](#)

This website contains numerous resources that guide districts on how to monitor and improve student attendance.

[Check & Connect](#)

This comprehensive student engagement and dropout prevention intervention is based on a trusting relationship between the student and a caring, trained mentor. Studies



show that Check & Connect improves the likelihood of graduation for students who are disengaged and at risk of dropping out of school.

[Community Tool Box, Youth Mentoring Programs](#)

This free online resource features information on building mentoring programs and maintaining their relevance and effectiveness.

[National Center on Secondary Education and Transition \(NCSET\)](#)

NCSET explores emerging and promising practices related to dropout prevention and the improvement of graduation rates.

[National Dropout Prevention Center/Network \(NDPC\)](#)

This national resource shares effective strategies that promote student success.

[PACER Center](#)

This center collaborates with state and national agencies to address dropout prevention for students with disabilities with a focus on encouraging parent involvement with their transition-aged youth.

[Secondary Transition Roadmap](#)

This Project 10 resource, a 12 page booklet, shares information about dropout prevention and graduation.

Upcoming Events

11th Annual Promising Pathways Conference "The Road to Best Practice in Autism Spectrum Disorder"

**April 7, 2018 @ Florida Gulf Coast University,
Cohen Center**

This collaborative no-cost conference will provide current information on best practice in autism spectrum disorders for educators. Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) will be available to healthcare professions.

Click [here](#) to register.



2018 Making Wellness a Priority: Healthy Minds & Healthy Futures Conference

**April 24 - 25, 2018 @ the Omni Resort at
ChampionsGate, Kissimmee, FL**

This statewide conference features national and local speakers who will share innovative and proven approaches in the area of transition of youth with emotional and mental health disabilities. This event is sponsored by the Florida Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE), Florida's Multiagency Network for

Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET/FLDOE), the Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Florida Department of Children and Families (FLDCF).

The call for presentations has been extended until March 16, 2018. Click [here](#) to submit a presentation proposal.

Click [here](#) to register.



Kevin Hines
THE ART OF WELLNESS
Brain Health Advocate & Storyteller


April 24-25, 2018 OMNI at ChampionsGate FLORIDA
First Annual Mental Health and Transition Conference

**2018 Making Wellness a Priority:
Healthy Minds & Healthy Futures**

Workshop Proposal Deadline February 23, 2018!
Submit a Workshop Proposal [Online](#)
Submission Deadline: Wednesday, February 23, 2018

About the Conference
This exciting statewide conference brings together national and local speakers and presenters to share innovative and proven practical approaches and interventions in the area of transition of youth and young adults with emotional and behavioral disabilities, specifically addressing high school graduation, post-secondary education, employment, community engagement and systems of care.

Conference Information
[Registration link *](#) [Hotel Reservation Information link *](#)
Presented by:






Transition Contacts Meeting

May 2nd, 2018 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (prior to 2018 VISIONS Transition Conference)

The 2018 Transition Contacts Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., prior to the 2018 VISIONS Conference. For questions regarding the 2018 Transition Contacts Meeting, please contact Wendy Metty (wendy.metty@fldoe.org) or Danie Roberts-Dahm (lroberts@usfsp.edu).

Click [here](#) to register. There is no cost to attend this meeting, but registration is required to ensure there will be adequate space and materials.

VISIONS: The Florida Division on Career Development and Transition (FDCDT) Transition Planning Institute and Conference

"It's Time to Thrive. . . We Turned 25!"

May 2 - 4, 2018 @ the Daytona Beach Hilton Resort in Daytona, FL

FDCDT is sponsoring its annual transition planning conference that will feature inspiring keynote speakers, informative break-out sessions, a meeting of transition contacts and opportunities to network with like-minded professionals.

Click [here](#) to download the VISIONS registration form.



National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference "Imagination Drives Transformation"

June 26 - 28, 2018 @ Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL

The 2018 National APSE Conference will provide a great opportunity to learn about innovative practices for inclusive employment; get the latest updates on public policy and funding resources; and network with colleagues from other states.

Click [here](#) to register.

Upcoming Webinars

Think College

"Meaningful Credentials: What are Students Earning Upon Graduation?"

March 20, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

This webinar will address the topic of offering meaningful credential to students who are attending college through a program for students with intellectual disabilities (ID). A Credential Action Planning Tool that can be used to develop meaningful credentials for students with ID will be shared.



Click [here](#) to register.

PACER Center: Champions for Children with Disabilities

"Assistive Technology: What is it and How to Use it"

March 21, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

This workshop will address assistive technologies that can benefit students with disabilities and will discuss specific tools that are available to students of all ages.

Click [here](#) to register.

PACER Center: Champions for Children with Disabilities

"Assistive Technology that Supports Independent Living for Young Adults with Disabilities"

April 12, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

This workshop will address assistive technologies, such as devices to manage medication, smartphone/tablet apps that help to manage tasks or keep track of finances and apps that identify transportation options. These assistive technologies can support young adults with disabilities to live independently.

Click [here](#) to register.

PACER Center: Champions for Children with Disabilities

"Getting and Keeping the First Job"

April 24, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

This workshop will address the cornerstone of successful transition, competitive employment. Youth and families will learn about preparing for and keeping a job.

Click [here](#) to register.

References

Eva, A. L. (2018). Five ways to reignite your passion for teaching. *Greater Good Magazine*. Retrieved from https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/five_ways_to_reignite_your_passion_for_teaching?utm_source=Greater+Good+Science+Center&utm_campaign=f8f3877ab9-GGSC_Ed_Newsletter_Feb_2018&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5ae73e326e-f8f3877ab9-61348027



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About Project 10 Topical Briefs:

Project 10 Topical Briefs provide informational summaries and resource links related to secondary transition.

Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share?

Email us at project10@stpete.usf.edu.

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit our [Topical Briefs](#) page on the [Project 10](#) website.

Project 10: Transition Education Network

Assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.

Project 10: Transition Education Network

University of South Florida St. Petersburg

Questions or comments?

Email us at project10@stpete.usf.edu.

www.project10.info

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