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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 Interagency Collaboration.



Send to a Colleague

Stories

- [Interagency Collaboration Boosts Post-School Outcomes and Improves Indicator 14 Data](#)
- [How to Start an Interagency Collaboration: Stages of Interagency Collaboration](#)
- [Project 10 CONNECT: Resources to Support the Establishment and Growth of IACs](#)
- [Florida Happenings: Interagency Council Activities Around the State](#)

Resources

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Webinars



Interagency Collaboration Boosts Post-School Outcomes and Improves Indicator 14 Data

Are you looking for ways to improve post-school outcomes for your students with disabilities? Moving from school to post-school activities is a critical transition point. The support of transition age students by

teachers, educational personnel, families, state agencies and community organizations is crucial as no single entity has the resources to provide comprehensive transition services on its own. Transition stakeholders must be collectively equipped with the essential understandings, tools and resources needed to assist students to successfully transition from school to post-school activities, and those resources can be realized most effectively through collaboration. Interagency Councils (IACs) facilitate a cross-agency, collaborative approach to supporting post-school outcomes for students with disabilities that capitalizes on the strength of coordinated efforts by reducing duplicated services and filling service gaps. In essence, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

The use of IACs is an evidence-based strategy to assist students to improve their post-school outcomes. Studies show that students who benefit from the presence of interagency collaboration are more likely to participate in postsecondary education opportunities and employment. IAC characteristics associated with improved post-school outcomes in education and employment are as follows:

- IACs provide students with support from a greater number of agencies
- IAC organizational structures and procedures are well-developed
- IAC members are diverse
- IAC support services are diverse

Developing IACs in districts and/or regions where they currently do not exist and increasing the robustness of IACs where they do exist can improve Indicator 14 statistics which means an increased number of students moving into successful post-school life.

References

Noonan, P. M., Morningstar, M. E., Erickson, A. G. (2008). Improving interagency collaboration: Effective strategies used by high-performing local districts and communities. *Career Development for Exceptional Individuals*, 31(3), 132-143.

Test, D. W., Fowler, C., & Kohler, P. (2010, rev. 2013). Evidence-based practices and predictors in secondary transition: What we know and what we still need to know. Retrieved from http://transitionta.org/system/files/effectivepractices/EBPP_Exec_Summary_2016_12_13_16.pdf

How to Start an Interagency Collaboration: Stages of Developing a New Interagency Council (IAC)

Is a new IAC forming in your area? Starting an IAC can be an overwhelming process. The best way to begin is by gathering a small group of motivated representatives from several agencies that can assist with team forming and identifying stakeholder groups to include. Project 10 Regional Transition Representatives are available to provide informational resources, training, technical assistance and support throughout the process. Training or technical assistance may be requested through the Project 10 website at <http://project10.info/Contact/.php>.



At the district and community level, an IAC is a cross-agency cooperation that identifies transition needs that can be met through coordinated planning and problem-solving. Collaborative teams can assist school and agency personnel with training opportunities and the development of transition programs. These teams can also serve students by providing job training, employment opportunities and other services that school districts may not be able to provide on their own.

Essential Tools: Interagency Transition Team Development and Facilitation is a valuable informational resource for IAC development is provided by the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET). This a comprehensive guide outlines five stages of interagency team development. Each stage includes tools for collecting and organizing information as well as activities that assist teams to develop and define their membership, purpose, activities and way of work. The five stages include:

- **Overview and using teaming principles to guide your work**
- **How to build an effective interagency transition team**
- **How to determine initial roles, responsibilities and the team vision**
- **How to conduct interagency transition team meetings**
- **Knowing if your interagency transition team is on-track and meeting its goals**

The *Essential Tools: Interagency Transition Team Development and Facilitation* is available to download at no cost at <http://www.ncset.org/publications/essentialtools/teams/default.asp>.



Project 10 CONNECT: Resources to Support the Establishment and Growth of IACs

Do you need resources and support to start a new IAC? Project 10 CONNECT is an initiative implemented in Florida that provides mini-grant funding, training and technical assistance to foster interagency collaboration

that enhances coordination of services among various agencies and provides services designed to improve post-school outcomes for transition-age youth with disabilities. During the 2014 - 2015 grant year, 33 Project 10 CONNECT sites (serving 41 districts) were provided with mini-grant funding and the following year (2015-2016), 34 sites serving 41 districts received funding. The process of interagency collaboration was fostered through technical assistance from Project 10 Regional Transition Representatives.

Florida IACs focused improvement efforts on the four secondary transition-related indicators as follows:

- **Both graduation rates (Indicator 1) and dropout rates (Indicator 2) were focused on by 28 sites (85%).**
- **Post-school outcome data (Indicator 14) was used in planning by 91% of sites.**
- **Transition IEP compliance (Indicator 13) was focus for 61% of sites.**

Using the IACs to bring multiple stakeholders and their resources to focus on secondary transition-related indicators provides the momentum to create positive change for students.

Florida Happenings: Interagency Council (IAC) Activities around the State

Check out these Florida IAC activities! The Project 10 CONNECT sites are launching many systems change initiatives that are making a positive impact on local students with disabilities who are



transitioning from school to adult life. When asked about their accomplishments, the CONNECT sites most frequently identified the following outcomes:

- District-wide transition fairs or conferences held for students and families
- Development and dissemination of agency information and resource guides for students and families
- Increased communication with agencies, resulting in earlier agency referrals for students

There were a plethora of products developed by the IACs, including:

- Flyers
- Interagency websites
- Learning strategies curriculum
- Resource directories
- Self-determination and self-advocacy curriculum
- Student portfolios
- Transition brochures
- Transition guides
- Transition placemats

Project 10 CONNECT sites have been identifying priorities, developing action plans and carrying out activities that relate to their priorities. Recognizing the key role interagency collaboration plays in improving the transition of youth from school to adult life, IACs continue to refine their priorities and improve the attainment of their goals.

Helen Keller is noted for saying, **"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."** The truth of that statement is evident in the work of the IACs. Through the combined efforts of schools, state agencies, families, community organizations and students, IACs are building stronger and larger networks of resources that accomplish so much more together than could ever be accomplished in isolation.

Interagency Collaboration Resources

[Essential Tools: Community Resource Mapping \(2009\)](#)

This resource on community resource mapping was developed by the National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET). An overview and four steps are shared to assist with the founding of interagency collaborative teams.

[Fast Facts: Interagency Collaboration \(2014\)](#)

This publication from the Council for Exceptional Children's Division of Career Development and Transition Publications Committee (DCDT) provides a quick overview of interagency collaboration and its relevance to teachers, administrators and families.

[Highlights of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor offers this at-a-glance look at the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), designed to make it easier for all Americans, including those with disabilities, to find gainful employment.

[National Technical Assistance Center on Transition \(NTACT\)](#)

Dedicated to assisting "State Education Agencies, Local Education Agencies, State VR agencies and VR service providers in implementing evidence-based and promising practices ensuring students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, graduate prepared for success in postsecondary education and employment," the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) offers a wealth of resources and information. Visitors here will find resources about transition planning, effective practices, data-analysis and use and much more.

[Project 10 Website Developing Interagency Transition Teams](#)

Training on Request page provides information about a Project 10 training which addresses the essential elements of effective interagency teaming and collaboration, the process of forming a team and activities and information for interagency transition teams.

[Project 10 Website Interagency Articulation Agreement Template](#)

Formal understandings or agreements that describe the participating agencies' collaborative vision, mission and purpose are helpful tools. This template can be used 'as is' or as a starting point for a customized articulation of agreement.

[Project 10 Website Interagency Collaboration](#)

This resource provides information and additional reference sources related to interagency collaboration.

[Secondary Transition Planning: The Basics \(2015\)](#)

This document, developed by the California Transition Alliance on transition planning, addresses best practices for family and interagency collaboration in section 8B.



Upcoming Events

Family Network on Disabilities: Working Together to Support Positive Student Behavior Conference

**March 24-25, 2017
CAMLS Convention Center
Tampa, Florida**

The conference will focus on helping families and professionals learn to apply practical strategies focused on Positive Behavior Supports at home and in the classroom.

To register or for more info, click the link below.

<http://fndusa.org/pbs/>

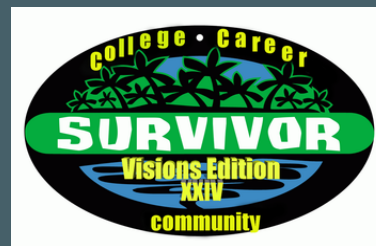
To host a watch party or benefit from this event online, use the following link:

<http://bit.ly/fndpbs>

Florida Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT) VISIONS XXIV: A Transition Planning Institute and Conference

**May 3-5, 2017
Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center
St. Pete Beach, Florida**

This year the theme is SURVIVOR: VISIONS Edition - College, Career, Community. A transition contact meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3, from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Additional information regarding the conference may be found on the FL DCDT website, www.FloridaDCDT.org. Make plans now to attend. Download the Registration Form [here](#).





Upcoming Webinars

Reducing Chronic Absence: It's a Matter of 1, 2, 3!

Tuesday, March 28, 2017

2:00 - 3:30 pm ET

Register [here](#)

This is the first in a series of webinars that look at what it takes to reduce chronic absenteeism and shares a set of strategies that are being used in a number of communities across the country. The primary focus for this webinar is on universal attendance improvement strategies. The webinar will also introduce the 2017-18 edition of the Count Us In toolkit which will help in planning new attendance campaigns for the fall.

Let's Talk about the Money: Planning for College

Thursday, April 6, 2017

3:00 - 4:00 pm ET

Register [here](#)

College should be accessible for everyone. In addition to having to advocate for the best academic and social supports for college students with intellectual disabilities, there is also the issue of paying for college. Two financial advisors, pulling from personal and professional experience, will share their expertise about how to do that. There are many sources of money to pay for college of which people may not be aware. The overall goal is to raise awareness of options available for families to consider. Presented by the Special Needs Financial Planning Team of Shepherd Financial Partners Cynthia Haddad, Certified Financial Planner, and Alexandria

Nadworny, Certified Financial Planner. This webinar is co-sponsored by PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment.

What's Out There? A Look at Transition-Related Resources in Florida and Beyond

Thursday, April 6, 2017

12:00 - 1:30 pm ET

Register [here](#)

The Family Involvement Subcommittee of the State Secondary Transition Interagency Committee (SSTIC) is presenting the first in a two-part webinar series addressing secondary transition resources for families. Presenters include Lisa Friedman-Chavez, Project 10; Kathy Powell, Parents of the Panhandle Information Network (POPIN), and Joe La Belle, Parent Education Network (PEN). Additional details coming soon.

Creative Approaches to Meaningful Credentials

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

3:00 - 4:00 pm ET

Register [here](#)

During this webinar, participants will learn about the development of meaningful credentials and how they are being established in a variety of colleges and university systems. Nationally, students with intellectual disabilities are obtaining credentials when exiting college. This important capstone is essential to the following: bringing meaning to the course work completed in college, enhancing the personal and social growth of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and will result in greater value to employers. Presented by: Barbara Bookman, City University of New York, Martha Mock, Ph.D., University of Rochester, and Carrie Shockley, City University of New York.



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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 the newsletter page on the Project 10 website at <http://www.project10.info/Newsletter.php>.

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