

About Project 10 E-News

Project 10 E-News, is a monthly e-newsletter that provides short information summaries and resource links related to secondary transition. Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share? Send us an email at project10@stpete.usf.edu, and we'll take it from there!

News from Around the State

VISIONS XIX Early Bird Registration Ends April 2nd!

There's still time to get the early bird registration rate for VISIONS XIX, "212 Degrees: Making the Difference in Transition!" The annual conference will be held May 2-4, 2012, at the Renaissance International Hotel in Tampa. The registration fee includes opening and closing sessions, concurrent sessions, an upgraded continental breakfast, the President's Reception, and the DCDT Awards Luncheon. To access the registration form—and for hotel information and a tentative conference schedule—go to <http://www.project10.info/WhatsNew.php>.

SSTIC Meeting Held March 23, 2012

The State Secondary Transition Interagency Committee (SSTIC), the state-level interagency team designed to facilitate inter-organizational understanding, identify needs grounded in data, identify and realign capacity building resources, facilitate collaboration, avoid duplication, and share responsibility and planning to improve secondary transition, met in Tallahassee on March 23, 2012. The committee meets twice a year with additional conference calls of its subcommittees on Data, Dropout Prevention, Employment, Family Involvement, and Postsecondary Education. SSTIC subcommittees are charged with identifying gaps, barriers, and potential

Regional News

Northwest Region 1

Dr. Lori Garcia, lorigarcia@mail.usf.edu

- This month's issue highlights the Big Bend Transition Council (BBTC) facilitated by Tury Lewis from Leon County Schools, lewist@leonschools.net or 850.487.7134. BBTC has approximately 30 members representing school districts and agencies in Leon, Wakulla, and Gadsden counties and meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9 am at FDLRS Miccosukee in Tallahassee. BBTC publishes an annual guide of services for students with disabilities for the Big Bend region as well as fact sheets on transportation, health options, and guardianship. In January 2012, the BBTC sponsored the Touchdown for Transition event for middle and high school students with disabilities, families, and professionals. Information on postsecondary options, diploma options, agency involvement, public benefits, and legal rights was shared with over 60 participants.
- A special "Thank You" to our Region 1 Winter Institute presenters, Dr. Kris Webb, Jane Silveria, Kirk Hall, Mickie Hayes, Dr. Rick Casey, Carla Greene; our SEDNET Family, Tammy Burton, Janna Hill, Chris Wells, and Kala Dean; our gracious hosts, Catie McRae and Beth Williams of FDLRS Miccosukee and Faye Yongue and Rusty Holmes of FDLRS/PAEC; and all who attended this year!

Northeast Region 2

Patrick Mulvihill, pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu

- Congratulations to Kyle Leahy Walsh, a student at Ridgeview High School in Clay County who won a 2011-2012 Exemplary Participants Award sponsored by Very Special Arts for students who demonstrate outstanding work or personify exceptional individual growth in the arts. Kyle will graduate in June and plans to take classes in animation, video, and graphic design at Florida State College in Jacksonville. Read more about Kyle on the VSA Florida website at <http://www.vsafl.org>.
- The Nassau County Interagency Council will sponsor its annual Transition Fair on 4/20/12 at the Florida State College Jacksonville, Betty P. Cook Nassau Campus, in Lewis "Red" Bean Technical Center beginning at 3:30 pm. A number of community agencies will participate including presentations by Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security Administration, and students transitioning to a post-secondary environment. Contact James Burns, burnsja@nassau.k12.fl.us for more information.
- Congratulations to Lafayette County School District for joining Project 10 CONNECT. They will participate in the FDLRS Gateway Secondary Transition Committee with Hamilton, Columbia,

News from Around the State—continued

solutions; reviewing recommendations from various partners with secondary transition interests; and, as appropriate, identifying issues that need to be taken back to respective agencies. The work of the subcommittees is culminating in goals for implementation and products and papers vetted by the full committee.

SSTIC accomplishments to date include

- A joint memo from the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Students Services (BEESS) and the Division on Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) on services provided by DVR including psychological evaluations, available at <http://www.project10.info/files/DVRServicesMemo011411.pdf>
- Recommendations from the Employment subcommittee for Vocational Education for Students with Disabilities course descriptions
- A “Transition Basics: A Guide for Families” webinar developed by the Family Involvement subcommittee tentatively scheduled for May 2012
- Dropout prevention training materials presented at the National Dropout Prevention Conference and to Florida school districts, including <http://www.project10.info/files/DOPrevNDPC2012.pdf>
- If your school district has emerging secondary transition issues related to data, dropout prevention, employment, family involvement, and/or postsecondary education, please share them with your Regional Transition Representative, who will route them to the appropriate SSTIC subcommittee facilitator for consideration.

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What happens if students don't pass an End-of-Course (EOC) exam that is weighted at 30% of the students' grade (e.g., if they were at a C average and didn't pass, they would fail the course)? Can the students retake the EOC exam? If so, when are the students eligible to retake the EOC exam?

Answer: Section 1003.428(4)(a) of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) requires that for courses that require statewide standardized EOC assessments...a minimum of 30% of the student's course grade shall be comprised of performance on the EOC assessment.

Northeast Region 2 - continued

Patrick Mulvihill, pmulvihill@mail.usf.edu

Suwannee, and Madison county school districts. The Lafayette site coordinator is Debbie Singletary, dsingletary@lcsbmail.net.

East Central Region 3

Heather Mack, hmack1@mail.usf.edu

- Orange County held its Spring Transition Fair on 3/14/12 at Glenridge Middle School in Orlando with close to 250 people in attendance! Agencies and school personnel were busy right up to the last minute. Two former students who have continually worked were honored with free passes to Universal and certificates. Both students exemplified successful transition—and were thrilled with the recognition and passes.
- Seminole County's Life after High School Transition Event is scheduled for 4/11/12 at Seminole State College, 100 Weldon Blvd, in Sanford from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.
- Orange County, a Project DISCOVER a pilot site, reports that teacher Larry Desguin has been invited to serve on the Project DISCOVER Advisory Committee. Congratulations, Larry!
- Polk County's Transition Fair on 2/28/12 was a huge success. Students, teachers and parents attended the event at the Lakeland center, and most of the 58 invited agencies participated as well. Congratulations to Polk County!

West Central Region 4

Federico Valadez, fvaladez@mail.usf.edu

- The Region 4 *Standing Up for Me* Train-the-Trainer training on 03/09/12 was a great success. The 22 participants included district and discretionary project personnel, teachers, and employment specialists. Special thank-yous to Liz Cooper and Danie Roberts-Dahm who assisted with the training; Anne Wissner, Hillsborough County Transition Coordinator, who helped secure the facility; and all of the participants.
- The Citrus County School District START Interagency Council Meeting and ESE Expo on 3/27/12 had a large turnout of school district and agency personnel, teachers, job coaches, families, and students. Participants viewed a student-produced DVD showcasing innovative programs, toured Community-Based Instruction and Work Experience sites including Publix and Belk, and rode a school bus with the students to their sites. Kudos to Karl Amundson, Dave Benthus, Stephanie Hooper, and Kathy Jackson!
- Pasco County School District received a Collaborative on Discovery and Innovation in Employment (CODIE) grant and on 2/29/12 participated in a successful “PATH” to implement Discovery in an innovative way sponsored by the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities. Team members included personnel from Pasco ESE, FDLRS, Project 10, and many others. The facilitators were Vicki Barnett, FIN Facilitator; Nila Benito, Community Supports Coordinator; and Brenda Clark, Employment Coordinator with the Florida Center for Inclusive Communities. The PATH was a true model of teamwork and a positive sign for the implementation of Discovery in an innovative way for students with disabilities.

Frequently Asked Questions—continued

Section 1003.428(8)(b),2, F.S, specifies that a student with a disability...shall have EOC assessment results waived for the purpose of determining the student's course grade and credit as required in paragraph (4)(a).

If the IEP team determines that the EOC cannot accurately measure the student's abilities and the results should be waived, then the final grade calculation would not include 30% of the EOC assessment results.

If the IEP team does not determine that the results should be waived, the student has the option to repeat one or both semesters and retake the EOC to improve the grade and pass the EOC. Best practice would be to remediate and retake the exam. Each student's unique needs and GPA should be considered.

Project 10 Website Updates

- The **home page** has been updated with a new slide show of STING RAY student photos and a new accordion file with links to Bookmark Project 10, Have a Question?, Conference Presentations, What's New, Project 10 E-News, and New Content.
- Several items have been added to **What's New** including registration information for VISIONS XIX, a new self-help guide from FAAST for students with disabilities who are not in special education, and the *Skills to Pay the Bills* curriculum from the Office of Disability Employment Policy in the U.S. Department of Labor.
- The *AMM Databook 2011 and Section 504 Implementation Guide* from BEESS were added to the **A-Z Library**.
- Region 1 and Region 5 Winter Institute materials were added to **Conference Presentations**.
- The "Indicator 13 Resources 2012" document was updated on the **State Performance Plan > Indicator 13 web page**.

South Region 5

Lisa Friedman-Chavez, lfchavez@mail.usf.edu

Project 10 CONNECT mini-grants have been used for a variety of projects by interagency councils in Region 5 including:

- Collier County Partners in Transition used Project 10 CONNECT funding for printing costs for two brochures. One is geared towards local businesses and describes workforce diversity, benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities, vocational programs/ supports for obtaining and maintaining employment, and resources for businesses. The other brochure describes the Partners in Transition interagency transition council and its collaborative efforts and invites community stakeholders to become involved.
- A brochure developed by the Monroe County Conch CONNECT Interagency Council provides information on agencies and services that support individuals with disabilities transitioning to adulthood. Funding was used to print and mail copies of the brochure.
- The Palm Beach Council for In-Transition Youth (CITY) used Project 10 CONNECT funding to support the 2011 STARS (Start Transition And Realize Success) Conference, in which more than 500 parents and students participated.
- Project Transition of Lee County is developing a video to promote inclusion in the community.
- Many interagency councils have used Project 10 CONNECT funding for travel to transition-related conferences and events such as the 8th International Project SEARCH Conference, the Florida Division of Career Development and Transition's (FL-DCDT) VISIONS Conference, and the Project 10 Region 5 Spring Institute.

Department of Juvenile Justice

Dr. Rick Casey, nsbrec@aol.com

- Pensacola Boys' Base (PBB), a moderate risk program for juvenile offenders in Escambia County, has created a new School-Based Enterprise in partnership with Lamar Outdoor Advertising Company. Lamar is donating retired billboard vinyl which is repurposed by PBB students as vinyl tote bags. Students are taught to design and sew the bags by a volunteer master sewing and design instructor. They are also learning about the benefits of recycling and environmental awareness while keeping material out of the local landfill. All profits from the sales of the bags will go to PBB for student scholarships and transition-related expenses.

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

Want to add or remove a name from the mailing list? Contact your Regional Transition Representative.