

This Month's Issue

E-News is published on a monthly basis during the school year. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme. This month's theme is **CURRICULUM**.

Effective Curricula

Beverlee Jobrack, former teacher and textbook editor for SRA-McGraw Hill and author of *Tyranny of the Textbook*, identified six elements of an effective curriculum:

1. Thorough and deep content
2. Concepts and skills built on previous concepts and skills without abrupt changes
3. Rich, practical lesson plans that engage students at their levels
4. Teaching methods that are research- and/or practice-based
5. Meets the need of the specific student population
6. Meets state and/or national standards (Jobrack, 2012)

Ms. Jobrack has also provided rubrics for evaluating, selecting, and implementing curricula in ten categories. Using the rubric, an effective curriculum will have the following characteristics:

- Content is thorough and accurate with credible authorship and reviewers.
- Content coverage is rich; opportunities to explore depth of content are numerous.
- Content thoroughly covers foundational concepts.
- Design facilitates use with appealing features and navigational ease.
- Curriculum is easy to use; well laid out, and intuitive; Distinctive materials are worth the time to implement because they are effective.
- Lesson plan design includes effective concept introduction, practice, summarizing, and assessment of key concepts.
- Program has a sound philosophy grounded in credible evidence, research and/or experience; the philosophy is evidenced throughout the program.
- Curriculum thoroughly covers all grade level standards and meets the intention of the standards.
- Curriculum carefully develops incremental concepts along children's learning trajectories.
- Curriculum employs effective, innovative, and engaging teaching methods that are founded in research. (Jobrack, 2011)

These elements and rubrics can be used in identifying effective curricula of any type, including those used for secondary transition.

References

- Jobrack, B. (February 3, 2012) *What makes an effective curriculum?* Available at <http://tyrannyofthetextbook.wordpress.com/2012/02/03/what-makes-an-effective-curriculum/>
- Jobrack, B. (2011, September 3). *Rubrics for evaluating curriculum*. Available at <http://tyrannyofthetextbook.wordpress.com/2011/09/03/rubrics-for-evaluating-curriculum/>

Evidence-Based Transition Curricula

The National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC) has published an annotated bibliography (<http://www.nsttac.org/content/transition-curricula>) that provides an overview of nine transition curricula for 1) self-determination, 2) financial literacy, and 3) comprehensive transition in the domains of education, employment, and independent living. Brief descriptions of the curricula are provided with their purpose, basic structure, and materials. All curricula have been field-tested, and some include evidence bases. A summary chart indicates the transition areas addressed by the curricula: self-determination, IEP participation, employment preparation, social skills, independent living, transition planning. Price information is also provided.

Evidence-Based Transition Curricula (continued)

The Effective Practices in Transition section of the Project 10 website (<http://www.project10.info/Taxonomy.php>) contains curricula and instructional resources organized by the five categories of the *Taxonomy for Transition Programming* (Kohler, 1996):

- Student-focused planning
- Student development
- Interagency collaboration
- Program structure
- Family involvement

In addition, the Project 10 website provides resources and materials to support instruction in the areas of:

Career Development - <http://www.project10.info/CareerDevelopment.php>

Employment - <http://www.project10.info/Employment.php>

Postsecondary Education - <http://www.project10.info/PostsecondaryEducation.php>

Independent Living - <http://www.project10.info/DetailPage.php?MainPageID=97&PageCategory=Transition%20Topic%20Areas&PageSubCategory=None>

Leisure and Recreation - <http://www.project10.info/DetailPage.php?MainPageID=92&PageCategory=Transition%20Topic%20Areas&PageSubCategory=Leisure%20and%20Recreation>

Transition Assessment to guide instructional and curricular decisions - <http://www.project10.info/StatePerformancePlanDetail.php?MainPageID=211&PageCategory=Indicator%2013&PageSubCategory=None>

Reference

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (2012). *Comprehensive Transition Curricula Annotated Bibliography*, Charlotte, NC, NSTTAC. Available at <http://www.nsttac.org/content/transition-curricula>.

Life Centered Education (LCE) Curriculum

This year Project 10 purchased the Life Centered Education (LCE) Curriculum for interested districts in Florida. The transition curriculum, developed by Donn E. Brolin and distributed by the Council for Exceptional Children, is now entirely online. It focuses on career education and provides students with opportunities to learn specific vocational skills in the least restrictive environment while preparing them for careers in their community.

LCE has three curriculum domains: Daily Living Skills, Self-Determination and Interpersonal Skills, and Employability Skills. The Daily Living Skills domain teaches skills for managing home, family, and finances. The Self-Determination and Interpersonal Skills domain encourages students to become independent and self-confident, maintain friendships, and understand socially acceptable behavior. The Employability domain focuses on occupational awareness, work evaluation, vocational education, job training, job placement, and follow-up.

The LCE curriculum includes a curriculum and assessment portal where teachers can monitor student progress and track students who need help with assignments, have completed assignments, or are unable to complete assignments by a due date. It also provides assessment and rating tools including Knowledge and Performance Batteries, the Student Competency Assessment Record (SCAR), and the Competency Rating Scale (CRS).

Teachers can manage several classes and individual students online via the LCE portal. The Curriculum Matrix allows teachers to identify and implement lesson plans and accompanying instructional materials in all areas of the curriculum. With over 1000 lesson plans that can be linked to the Common Core State Standards, the LCE curriculum can stand alone or supplement to curriculum used by the teacher.

The LCE Knowledge Base Link is an online question and answer resource for LCE users; it is available at <http://lcesupport.ceclifeskills.org/index.php?/Knowledgebase/List>.

The LCE Correlations to the Common Core State Standards document links LCE lesson plan objectives to the Common Core State Standards at https://lce.cec.sped.org/assets/pdf/lce_ccss.pdf.

Additional Curriculum Resources

Florida Accommodations and Modifications for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.cpt.fsu.edu/ese/>

This FSU website includes information and resources on accommodations, instruction, curriculum modifications, access points, professional development, a glossary, and contacts for teachers of students with disabilities in Florida.

Florida Bureau of Curriculum and Instruction

<http://www.fldoe.org/bii/curriculum>

The Florida Department of Education website contains information on the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, a course code directory, course descriptions, and curriculum information by topic.

Florida Career and Technical Education Programs Curriculum Frameworks

<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/dwdframe/>

This Florida Department of Education web page contains draft 2013-2014 curriculum frameworks for career and technical education programs.

CPALMS and iCPALMS

<http://www.cpalms.org/homepage/index.aspx>

CPALMS. "where educators go for bright ideas," is Florida's collaborative platform for developing and sharing resources that support standards-driven instruction. Users may register for a free iCPALMS account in order to select their preferred design and web apps and maximize their access and use of teacher resources keyed to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS).

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Online Module

<http://www.fltpsid.info/>

The Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities developed this module to teach postsecondary educators UDL concepts, strategies, and benefits. Secondary teachers will also find it to be beneficial.

Other News and Events

New Project 10 Leadership Transition

On March 1, 2013, Lori Garcia, Ph.D., and Mary Podmostko, Ed.D., became the co-directors of Project 10. Lori was Project 10's Regional Transition Representative for the Panhandle, and Mary was the Project 10's assistant director. Departing Project 10 Director Jordan Knab is now the Founding Dean of the new Marino College for students with disabilities in Fort Lauderdale.

Project 10 Regional Winter Institute Materials Available

Presentations and handouts from all five regional winter institutes are now available on the Conference Presentations of the Project 10 website at <http://www.project10.info/ConferencePresentations.php>.

Launching Attendance Awareness Month Webinar

Attendance Works is offering a webinar that will highlight three cities that have improved student attendance and will introduce a toolkit of tactics to support Attendance Awareness Month activities in local communities. The free webinar will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, from 1:00 to 2:15 pm EDT. Register by Monday, April 8, to participate. For more information, go to

<http://www.attendanceworks.org/attendancemonth/webinar-count-us-in-launching-attendance-awareness-month-across-the-nation/>.

Mini-Grants Available

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc. and Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities are pleased to offer of mini-grants of up to \$15,000 to Florida state and community colleges to support youth with intellectual disabilities in inclusive vocational and technical on-campus programs. Institutions may use the mini-grants to cover student expenses such as student mentoring and technology. State and community colleges interested in developing and offering specialized vocational/technical program support for students with intellectual disabilities should contact Mickie Hayes, Director of the Florida Consortium on Postsecondary Education and Intellectual Disabilities, at mhayes6@usfsp.edu, for program and funding details.

Other News and Events (continued)

April is Autism Awareness Month

The IDEA Partnership, composed of over 50 national organizations, is sharing tools supporting Autism Awareness month. The tools, which were vetted by the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education, include information PowerPoints and presenter guides on topics such as Autism Spectrum Disorder characteristics, supports and interventions, and programming, a fact sheet, and dialogue guides. For more information, go to <http://www.ideapartnership.org/assessment-consortia-reach-out-through-the-partners/414-front-page-carousel/1620-partners-join-forces-for-impact-during-autism-month.html>.

New CDC Smoking Fact Sheet and Web Page for States

Did you know that adults with disabilities are more likely to smoke cigarettes than adults without disabilities—and Florida's state average is higher than the national average? Many smokers start smoking in junior high or high school, so you might want to check out the new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new smoking fact sheet at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/documents/cigarettesmokinganddisabilityfactsheet.pdf> and web page at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/smoking-in-adults.html>.

Project 10 Website Updates

The following items were recently updated or added to the Project 10 website at <http://www.project10.info>:

A-Z Library > Governor's Commission on Jobs for Floridians with Disabilities:

Updated date and information on Jordan Knab

About Us/About Project 10

Added information on new Project 10 Co-Directors and BEESS Transition Liaison

Contact Us

Added information on new Project 10 Co-Directors

Conference Presentations

Added additional presentations and handouts from the five Project 10 Regional Winter Institutes

Effective Practices in Transition

Student-Focused Planning – Updated “Whose Future is it Anyway” link

Student Development – Added “Check & Connect”

Employment

Employing Youth with Significant Disabilities – Added Integrated Employment Toolkit

Postsecondary Education

Added Think College! Information to the following web pages:

Financial Planning for Postsecondary Education

Resources Related to Postsecondary Education for People with Disabilities

Programs for Youth with Significant Disabilities

Supporting Postsecondary Youth

State Transition and Related Projects Contacts

Educational Resources – Updated BEESS liaison and Project 10 contacts

Personnel Development and Training – Updated Project 10 contacts

Student and Family Services - Updated Project 10 contacts

What's New

Added VISIONS XX Registration and Agenda

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@st.pete.usf.edu
www.project10.info