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Technical Assistance and Training Brief: Improving Graduation and Dropout Rates for Secondary Students with Disabilities

Project 10 provides technical assistance, training, and resources to district and school personnel in the areas of secondary transition, which is designed to improve graduation and dropout rates, secondary transition IEP compliance, and postschool outcomes for secondary students with disabilities.

This brief focuses on Project 10 technical assistance (TA) and training to improving graduation and dropout rates at the school/district level. Three key areas of TA are to assist school and district personnel in working with student data, development of graduation tracking system, and coordination with existing initiatives. Sample activities and recommended training are also listed.

Technical Assistance (TA)

I. Improve data collection, analysis, and data-driven decision-making

- a. Assist school and district personnel to build capacity in analyzing their own data
- b. Collaborate with school and district MIS/IT personnel to complete a data capacity analysis
- c. Review withdrawal and dropout codes with school and district personnel
- d. Assist school and district personnel to identify existing data collection and analysis systems, e.g., Early Warning System (EWS)
- e. Research and provide information and resources to improve graduation and dropout rates

II. Develop a color-coded student graduation tracking system

- a. Facilitate development of a graduation data tracking system
- b. Guide school and district personnel in analysis and maintenance of data system to monitor student progress towards graduation
- c. Assist district personnel with identification and prioritization of schools based on graduation/dropout rates
- d. Support districts in review of courses and scheduling impacting student success

III. Coordinate with existing initiatives and systems

- a. Participate in school and district action planning processes (e.g., Small Group Planning and Problem-Solving) to provide Tier 2 and 3 support
- b. Coordinate and collaborate on initiatives with discretionary projects (e.g., Check & Connect, Strategic Instruction Model, Differentiated Accountability, Problem-Solving/Response to Intervention)
- c. Collaborate with attendance specialists, dropout prevention teams, MIS personnel
- d. Facilitate coordination of activities with secondary transition interagency councils
- e. Support connections with high-performing districts to access effective practices

Recommended Training

Using School-level Data to Increase Graduation Success of Students with Disabilities

This training details how schools and districts can use early warning system (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)

Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities, Part 1: Florida's Current Status

This training presents information on Florida dropout and student exit survey data; discusses dropout risk factors, prevention strategies, and state and national promising practices. (2-3 hours)

Dropout Prevention for Students with Disabilities, Part 2: Strategies for Improvement

This training presents information on graduation success and dropout prevention tools, including Check & Connect and Florida's effective practices. (2-3 hours)

Contact your Project 10 Regional Transition Representative Today!

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