

Improving Transition Outcomes: Assisting Youth Make the Connection



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Improving Transition Outcomes
for Youth with Disabilities:
The Henry County & Iowa Story



The Problem: National Facts

- Estimates of dropout rates range from 10% to 25% for all high school students (Drop Out Rates in the US, 2001: Executive Summary, National Center on Drop Prevention).
- The drop out rate for youth with disabilities is nearly twice that of general population (Thurlow, Sinclair & Johnson, 2002).
- The majority of young adults with disabilities are under-or unemployed and grossly underrepresented and unsupported in post-secondary education (Alwell & Cobb, 2006).
- Graduating youth are not prepared for employment.
- Graduating youth are not prepared for post-secondary education.

The Problem: Henry CO Facts

- ✓ Youth were leaving school with no coordinated plans for the future.
- ✓ Few youth were referred to adult services during the school year.
- ✓ Of the 45 special education school "leavers" in Henry CO 10 or 22% dropped out during the 2003-04 school year

Why: Henry CO Facts

- ✓ Youth are not connected to people or community
- ✓ Little or confusing information about services available
- ✓ Parents need education about services/benefits
- ✓ Lack of team effort

Why: Henry CO Facts

- ✓ Substance abuse
- ✓ Teachers do not understand adult service systems
- ✓ Adult service providers do not understand school systems
- ✓ Different purposes of education

What's the Big Deal?

- ❌ Youth/Parents
- ❌ Community Members
- ❌ Adult Service Providers
- ❌ Schools

What's the Big Deal: Youth/Parents

Youth who do not make a successful transition tend to have ...

- higher unemployment rates
- higher arrest rates
- higher levels of poverty
- lower level of taxes paid

What's the Big Deal: Community Members

- *Fewer taxes paid
- *Higher service dollars
- *Lost human potential

What's the Big Deal: Schools

Potential loss of funds

Indicator 13

Percent of youth aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the post-secondary goals.

Indicator 14

Percent of youth who had IEP's, no longer in secondary school and who have been competitively employed, enrolled in some type of postsecondary school, or both within one year of leaving high school.

What's the Big Deal: Adult Service Providers

Later intervention usually more costly
Delayed positive outcomes
Lack of referrals

Henry County Issues Reflect Issues Found Throughout the State

What We Did

- Transition Guide
- Multi-County Resource Directory
- Parent Support Group
- Transition Resource Team Meetings
- Stakeholder Meetings

What We Did

Transition Guide

- Outlines best practice
- Gives specific information for Henry County

What We Did

Multi-County Resource Directory

- For teachers by teachers
- Youth tend to move from county to county, but typically in a small area

What We Did

Parent Group

- Information/Education
- Support

What We Did

Transition Resource Team Meetings

- Team = School, AEA, Adult Service Providers
- Brainstorming
- Suggestions

What We Did

Stakeholder Meetings

- Developed Relationships
- Improved Communication

Outcomes

Increased Parent Knowledge/Support

Increased Teacher Knowledge

Increased Connections to IVRS

- 6/1 to 4/4
- 2/0 to 4/4
- 21/5 to 27/19
- 7/0 to 4/1

*Increased collaboration
and communication
improves outcomes for
kids.*

Changes to IVRS

Collaborative
Transition Protocol

- Increased understanding of systems
- Efficient use of time/information
- Better information for planning

Changes to IVRS...

Increased interaction with youth and parents
Earlier intervention
Connecting to other providers
Business/industry focus

Changes in Schools...

Improve Indicator 13 Data

- Interests and Preferences
- Transition Assessment
- Post-secondary Expectations
- Course of Study
- Annual Goals
- Services and Supports

Changes in Schools...

Iowa Model Core Curriculum

- Rigor
- Relevance

State-wide Procedure Manual

Helping Youth Make The Connection

- ↘ *True Collaboration*
- ↘ *Focus On Student*

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References

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