



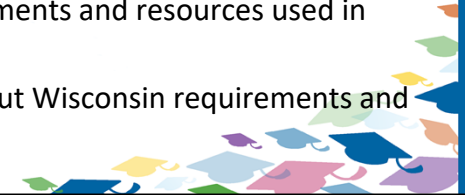
Middle School Matters: Let the Planning Begin!

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Presentation Goals:

1. Explain the case for starting in middle school
2. Provide ideas for supporting students with disabilities to start planning for adult life at an earlier age
3. Describe learning activities that can happen in middle school to facilitate engagement in transition planning
4. Share specific requirements and resources used in Wisconsin
5. Answer questions about Wisconsin requirements and resources. (at the end)



Why Middle School Matters

- Earlier exposure to transition planning and activities leads to improved postschool outcomes (Solberg et al, 2012; Cobb & Alwell, 2009; Phelps & Hanley-Maxwell, 1997)
- Starting in middle school gives students more time to explore and prepare for the future
- And, even earlier to set expectations....



College and Career Ready IEP – Foundational Beliefs

- High Expectations for ALL Students – all the time
- Culturally Responsive Practices – the norm
- Student Relationships – at the heart of education
- Family and Community Engagement – critical
- And, Educating all students is a Collective Responsibility – not ours and yours



College and Career Ready IEP 5-Step Process

- Understand the goals (grade-level standards)
- Identify disability-related needs to success
- Develop ambitions and achievable goals
- Align instruction and supports
- Analyze progress and adjust as needed

• *Planning for future success from the beginning*

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College and Career Ready IEP Resources

CCR IEP Main landing page:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/college-and-career-ready-ieps>

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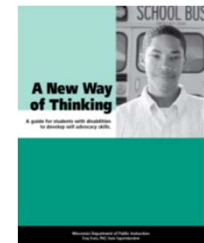
Frank and Ernest



A New Way of Thinking

- A specific middle school resource developed for middle school students and teachers
- Assists students to develop self-accepting attitudes and combat negative thinking
- Helps students better understand their disability, think positively about themselves, and make choices related to their interests
- Supports students to gain self-advocacy skills and become more self-determined

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/sped/pdf/tran-new-way-of-thinking.pdf>



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Alignment with IDEA Indicator 13

- Postschool goals for education and training, employment, and independent living (optional, but....)
- Discussed **with the student** as a component of IEP development no later than age 16 (required by age 14 in Wisconsin and multiple other states)
- Must be based on results from age-appropriate assessment and strengths and interests

[Transition Assessment Live Binder](#)

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Assessment and Academic Career Planning (ACP)

- Similar to Individualized Learning Plans (ILP) in other states
- Will be required for ALL students 6th grade and above in Wisconsin beginning in fall 2017
- Numerous districts in Wisconsin are already implementing
- SEA provided a platform at no cost (Career Cruising)

https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/acp/conference/Inspire-by-Career-Cruising_Brochure-EM.pdf

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Academic Career Planning (ACP)

- Brings transition planning into the forefront for general educators and connects more students with disabilities to school counselors
- Student-driven
- Adult-supported
- Students create and cultivate their own unique plans based on strengths, interests, and vision for the future (life after high school)
 - Self Exploration
 - Career Exploration
 - Development of Career Management and Planning Skills

[ACP Website](#)
[Why ACP Matters Video](#)

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Similar to the Individual Learning Plan (ILP)

- Begins in the 6th Grade
- Students find careers that match their skills and interests
- Develop their education plans
- Establish personal goals and revisit throughout schooling
- Create and maintain a resume
- Track and reflect their community service, work experience, career planning activities, and extra curricular activities
- Explore colleges and post secondary options to match to their goals

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Why Middle School Matters

- Starting earlier affords IEP teams additional time to identify student needs and match appropriate goals, classes, and transition services.
- Transition plans are stronger when based on student-driven goals and well-understood student strengths, abilities, and interests (motivators)

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Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP)

- Wisconsin uses an on-line transition plan program that walks teams through the requirements.
- The PTP also captures Pre-Employment Transition Services to match Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements
- Also Course of Study and information about Turning 18 (age of majority)
- Submitted to the State Education Agency (SEA)

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/13-transition>

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Pre-Employment Transition Services

- (1) Job Exploration and Counseling Services
- (2) Work Based Learning Experiences
- (3) Post-secondary and higher education related services
- (4) Work Readiness Social and Independent Living Skills for **Home**
- (5) Work Readiness Social and Independent Living Skills for **Community**
- (6) Instruction in Self Advocacy

[Pre Employment Transition Services](#)

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Why Middle School Matters

- Middle school is a time when students are building social skills and seeking greater independence (Wehman & Kregel, 2004)
- Fostering student engagement with their postschool goals improves outcomes (Halpern, 1994)
- There's an app for that!

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Transition Planning App

- The Transition Planning App was designed in conjunction with the Protection and Advocacy agency in Kansas (Kansas has an app first)
- The app allows the student to enter individualized goals, strengths, interests, needs, hopes, and dreams
- Promotes engagement, **self-direction, self-determination**
- Free and anyone can use

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Get the App

Web-based version:

www.WiTransition.com

Also available on Google Play and iTunes and Resources available to support use:

<http://www.witig.org/witransition-app.html>

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Transition Planning to Drive Achievement of Post Secondary Goals - Recap

- Student and Family Engagement
 - Development of Self Advocacy Skills
 - Students and Families identify strengths and goals
 - Student participation in IEP meetings
 - Transition Planning Application
- Timeline for Planning
 - Development of Post Secondary Transition Plan (PTP)
 - Understanding of Disability and Learning Styles
 - Generate a list of Post Secondary Goals, Options, and Interests
 - Identify Annual Goals linked to the IEP
 - Plan out Pre Employment Transition Services
 - Plan out High School Classes

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Career Counseling and Work Based Learning Experiences - Increasing Employment

- Grades K-5
 - Learning about work
 - Participate in Career Days
 - Household Chores
 - Neighborhood Jobs
 - Make Own Choices
- Grades 6-8
 - Volunteer/School Jobs
 - Volunteer Experiences in the Community
 - Job Shadows in Interest Areas/Interview people in the field
 - Business Tours
 - Understand needed accommodations for job experiences



[Opening Doors to Employment Link](#)

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Post Secondary and Higher Education Related Services: Preparing for Post Secondary Education

- Pre High School
 - Plan out high school classes
 - Develop list of post secondary options of interest
 - www.wicareerpathways.org
 - Develop understanding of disability and learning
 - Develop study skills
 - Assess College Readiness
 - Remediate or compensate for skill deficits
 - Identify necessary assistive technology



[Opening Doors to Post Secondary Education Link](#)

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Understanding Adult Services

- Understanding the process and options for supports after high school
- Development of a Personal Information File
 - School work samples
 - Any work and volunteer experiences
 - Medical records



[Opening Doors to Adult Services Link](#)

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Work Readiness: Social and Independent Living Skills

- Identify what students can do at home independently
- Complete Chores Independently
- Communication Skills
- Teach planning at home
- Provide personal safety instruction at home and in community
- Identify Assistive Technology Needs
- Manage time
- Understand medications
- Participate in Extra Curricular Activities

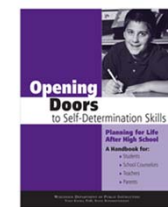
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Instruction in Self Advocacy: Developing Self Advocacy Skills

- Know your strengths
- Identify areas of needed support and understand you disability and impact
- Identify Interests, Preferences, and Goals
- Participate in IEP meetings to the highest level of your ability
- Choose time and place to complete homework
- Make own choices
- Share accommodations with General Education
- Participate in Extra Curricular Activities

[Opening Doors to Self Determination Link](#)



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Transition-Focused Lesson Plans

- Wisconsin’s Self Directed Transition Planning: Lesson Plans IEP/PTP/SoP
 - 15 lesson plan starters
 - Intended to support self direction of IEP/PTP/SoP
 - Lesson Plan Materials

[WiLesson Plan Site](#)

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QUESTIONS?

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Thank you for participating and all you do to support students prepare for the future!



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