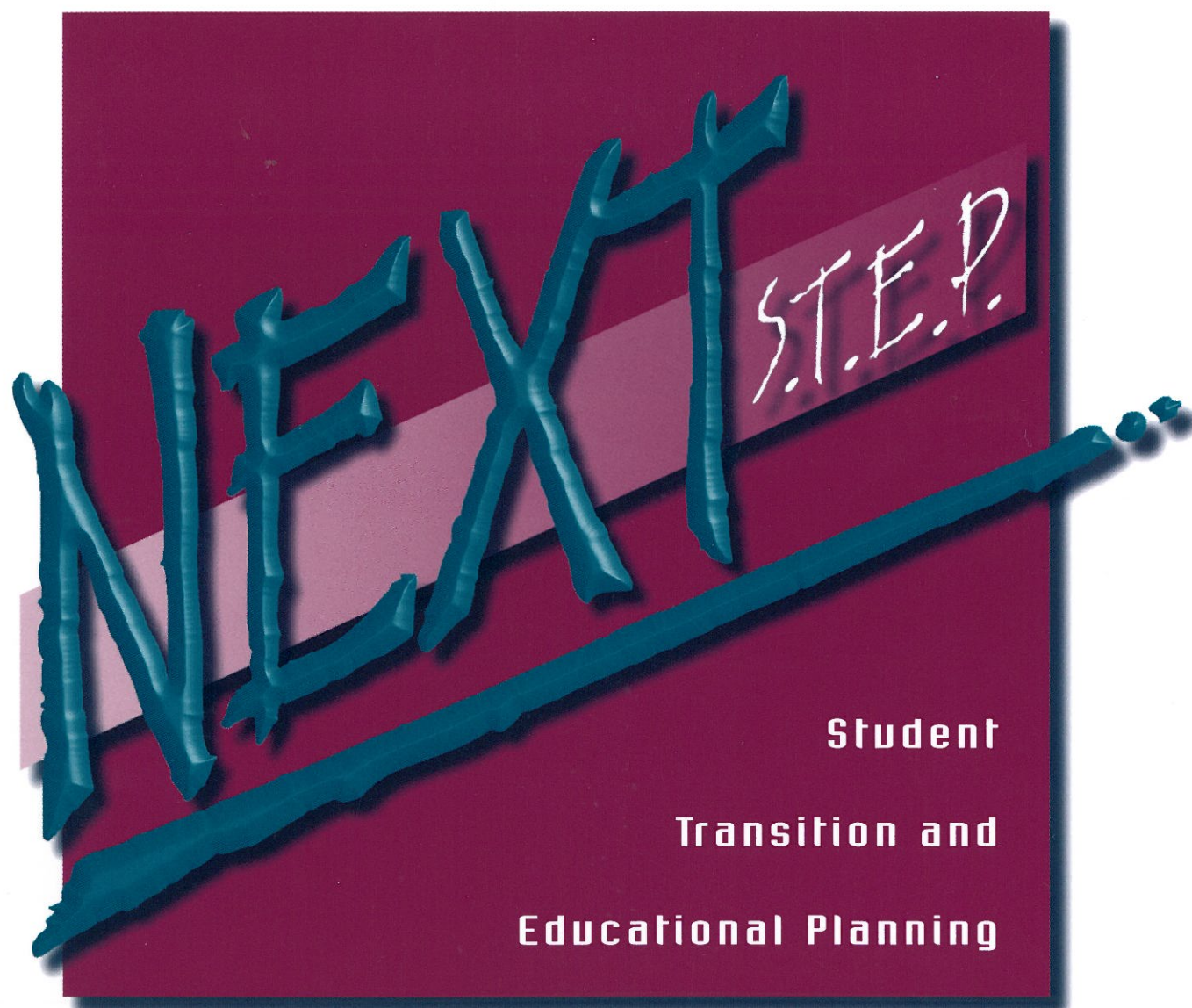


TEACHER MANUAL



S e c o n d E d i t i o n

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Teacher Manual

SECOND EDITION



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Introduction

OVERVIEW

What's next? This is the question, the concern, and the need that underlies transition planning. Much of the time, we go through life responding primarily to our immediate needs, especially during childhood and adolescence. The overall purpose of this curriculum is to teach high school students how to begin planning for their lives after they leave school. We call the curriculum NEXT S.T.E.P. S.T.E.P. is an acronym that stands for "student transition and educational planning."

Because long-range planning is an activity in which students probably have very little experience, the two main purposes of this curriculum are to

1. Teach students the skills they need for transition planning
2. Engage students successfully in this process

With the help of this curriculum, students eventually will take a leadership role in their own planning efforts, with teachers, family members, and other concerned people in the community playing supportive, facilitative roles. Furthermore, we hope that the skills that students learn through this curriculum will generalize into a strategy that they will be able to use at later times in their lives when other transitions emerge as new challenges.

What Will This Curriculum Do for Your Students?

Everyone knows that adolescence and young adulthood are times of floundering as young people struggle with the demands of growing up. Adolescents and young adults typically experience many difficulties as they gain ever-increasing responsibilities for the many decisions that affect their lives. Through this curriculum, students will begin to learn how to take charge of their own transition planning. We structured the lessons to help students accomplish the following goals:

1. Become motivated to engage in transition planning
2. Engage in meaningful and useful self-evaluation
3. Identify and select feasible and personally desired transition goals and activities
4. Monitor the implementation of their transition plans and make adjustments when needed
5. Take responsibility for conducting their own transition planning meeting

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This type of curriculum is needed in both general and special education. In general education, the current buzzwords are *school-to-work* or *career education*. In special education, we hear much about the need for “transition” programs and services. We chose the word *transition* to characterize our curriculum because we like the connotations of this word, but we constructed the lessons in a way that will work with all students, with or without disabilities.

How Does the Curriculum Work?

We developed the curriculum in a manner that is both comprehensive and easy to use. The NEXT S.T.E.P. curriculum

1. Consists of 16 lessons
2. Contains most of the materials that a teacher will need to implement the lessons, including lesson plans, blackline masters for overhead transparencies, student workbooks, and all the assessment tools, plan sheets, and other forms that students will need to produce their transition plans
3. Includes entertaining and instructive video vignettes that play a motivational and instructional role within several of the lessons
4. Provides guidelines for involving parents, family members, and other support persons in the student's transition planning process
5. Provides an approach and materials for tracking student progress through the curriculum

We also field-tested the curriculum with more than 1,000 students and their families prior to the first edition and with an additional 1,000 prior to this second edition. We can assure you that the NEXT S.T.E.P. curriculum really works!

The components of this curriculum consist of materials for both teachers and students and include the following:

1. Teacher Manual
2. Student Workbook, containing all worksheets and forms that the student will need to complete the curriculum
3. Instructional videotape
4. Program information brochures briefly describing the NEXT S.T.E.P. curriculum
5. *Teachers Talking to Teachers*, a manual of teacher recommendations concerning how to use this curriculum