

# **How to Increase Student Involvement in IEP Meetings**

---

Crystal Steidley Millington, M.A., M.Ed

October 25-26

Illinois Transition Conference

# Introductions

- ★ About Me
- ★ My Why
- ★ About You
- ★ Your Whys

# What Are Student Led IEPs?

★ Research definition

★ My definition

# Why Student Led IEPs?

- ★ Activity: Think about the last IEP meeting you attended. Who participated the most? Who participated the least? Who made most of the decisions?
  - What was the student doing during the meeting? Was the student in attendance?

# Why Student Led IEPs?

- ★ “Nothing about me without me!”
- ★ Puts the student at the center of the meeting
- ★ Increases self-advocacy/self-determination skills
- ★ Increases student awareness of strengths and needs

# Why Student Led IEPs?

- ★ Demystifies the IEP process
- ★ Helps students take responsibility for their needs and their learning
- ★ Increases student confidence in speaking with groups
- ★ At age 18, all rights transfer to the student
- ★ Independence!

# How To Prepare Students for Their IEP Meetings

- ★ Talk to your student about the meeting - let them know what to expect
- ★ Decide together what parts the student feels comfortable participating in, and how
- ★ Ready-made programs are available

# How to Include Students in their IEP Meetings - Examples

- ★ Elementary School
- ★ Middle School
- ★ High School
- ★ Students who have significant needs
- ★ Students who use alternative methods of communication



# How to Include Students in their IEP Meetings - Small Group Activity



# **Independent/Small Group Work: Focus Student**

This is your time to work independently, with colleagues/friends/family members/friends you just met, to begin planning how to include a student you teach/support/live with/care about in his or her IEP meeting. Use each other for support or ideas, ask questions if you have them. Happy planning!

# Questions/Final Remarks

Contact Information:

Crystal Steidley Millington

[crystal.steidley@gmail.com](mailto:crystal.steidley@gmail.com)

[bridgesadvocacy@gmail.com](mailto:bridgesadvocacy@gmail.com)