



Transition Planning for Students with Multiple Needs... A Collaborative Project in Process

The Transition Conference 2018

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Moderator: Alex Budziszewski, LADSE

Welcome!

This session:

Using a *Focus Group and Conversation* strategies in identifying system gaps and solutions in transition planning, middle school through high school, for students with multiple needs.

Transition Planning for Students with Multiple Needs



Regardless of disability, all children have the same needs to maximize their quality of life by achieving the greatest possible learning and independence.

Darci Lingren Presentation quoted from
www.eccadvocacy.org

Multiple Disability Definition IDEA 2004

...means concomitant impairments (such as mental retardation-blindness or mental retardation-orthopedic impairment), the combination of which causes such severe educational needs that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. Multiple disabilities does not include deaf-blindness.

Raising the Question to Parents

How do we better help middle school families prepare and plan for post high school transition?



On our short list...

- Next STEPS Parent Training
- Network Groups
- Newsletters
- Existing venues of learning
- Parent nights
- Webinars

Best way to Reach Parents of Multi-Needs Students in Middle School?



We thought ...a teacher reach out

We thought ...a telephone reach out

- Afternoon
- Evening
- Saturday
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday...
- **Just set a date and invite... and we did.**

Reaching Out to LADSE Middle and High Schools



What are best practices in place, what is working and what isn't?

- 8th grade conversations and field trip to the high school
- Teachers handouts for parents
- Social worker handouts
- Paired with open house
- Hard to get parents in for presentations

Reported Barriers for Parents of Students with Multiple Needs



- Exhaustion
- Opposite working schedules
- Need a caregiver when they are away
- So much information coming home, on overload
- Thinking about the transition to high school and can't think transition to post high school


Three Focus Groups Looking for Gaps and Solutions

Focus Group on

Transition Processes & Planning for Students in Multi-Needs Programs

You are invited to join us for a Focus Group Exploration of Transition Processes & Planning for Students in Multi-Needs Programs

Tuesday November 28th
3:30pm - 5:00pm at the LaGrange Library
10 W Cossitt Avenue
LaGrange




rsvp: karenSteffan@ladse.org
Please note any special accommodations needed.

Focus Group on

Transition Processes & Planning for Students in Multi-Needs Programs

You are invited to join us for a Focus Group Exploration of Transition Processes & Planning for Students in Multi-Needs Programs

Thursday, February 15, 2018
1:00pm to 2:30pm at the District 86 Transition Center
7302 Clarendon Hills Road
Darien, IL 60561



Please rsvp: karenSteffan@ladse.org
Please note any special accommodations needed.
Questions: Karen Steffan 708.601.6746


You are invited to join us for the final step

Coffee & Conversation

A community conversation and Transition Processes and Planning For Students in Multi-Needs Programs

When: Thursday, March 15, 2018
9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Where: District 86 Transition Center
7302 Clarendon Hills Road
Darien, IL 60561



Please RSVP: Kristine Mazza kmazza@ladse.org
Please note any special accommodations needed
Questions: (708) 482-186

Parent Conversations on Planning for Future Success



Designing the Roadmap on Transition Planning

We are inviting you to join us in a conversation about establishing a system of learning, for staff and parents, on the topic of Transition Planning for students with IEP's.

At this parent session we will:

- Share what we learned from teaching staff, what they want to know about Transition Planning and systems for learning
- Review the five elements of Transition Planning requirements
- Discuss your thoughts and ideas on what information is needed and the best ways to share transition planning information with parents of students with IEP's in middle school through high school

Thursday, April 26th

There two time options for your convenience

1:00pm - 2:00pm
or
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Location?

RSVP is required to Amanda Meyer
email: ameyer@ladse.org
phone: 708.482.7777

For more information, please contact Amanda Meyer or Colleen Brown at LADSE: 708.354.5730

Talking with the Experts

School Staff, Transition Staff, Adult Services Staff, and Adult Program Staff

***Operational and System Gaps**

1. Parent Awareness
2. General Gaps in Communication
3. Teacher Awareness
4. Transition Planning
5. Curriculum
6. Meetings
7. Networks of Stakeholders

***Best Practice Tips**

***What Does Success Look Like?**

Operational and System Gaps

Topic: Parent Awareness

Focus Group 1

- Transition Planning Process
- Resource knowledge
- Their role as a parent
- Starting early (middle school)
- Awareness of possibilities
- Specific steps
- Activities to do for future impact



Focus Group 2

- They need a transition binder or electronic folder
- Create checklists of learning that can be reviewed
- Host parent field trips/tours of area service providers

Operational and System Gaps

Topic: General Gaps in Communication

Focus Group 1

- We need more vertical communication from high school to middle school about transition planning, within and across districts



Focus Group 2

- We need to have outlined/planned introductions to give families on topics relevant to transition and their child's planning needs

Topic: General Gaps in Teacher Awareness

- Awareness of Community Programs
- Awareness of Community Programs

Operational and System Gaps

Topic: General Gaps in Curriculum

Focus Group 1

- Better understanding of student assessments
- Better transition planning tools for families



Focus Group 2

- Systematic assessments both formal and informal
- Self Advocacy Curriculum
- Teaching to independence

Topic: General Gaps in Transition Planning

- Need more discussions on Transition Planning with families before going into the IEP
- Sharing resources such as a good transition plan
- More dialogue between high schools and middle schools for continuity

Operational and System Gaps

Topic: Transition Planning Meetings

Focus Group 1

- Meet with parents prior to the IEP routinely
- Get more face time with families on the topic of transition in general
- Student preparation for attending the meeting:
- Having a student role outlined in the transition planning meeting



Focus Group 2

- Work from the transition plan to build the IEP
- Have the end vision in mind and work backwards to the annual goals
- Review parent activities on transition planning, could be prior to the IEP

Operational and System Gaps

Topic: Networks that Include All Stakeholders

Focus Group 1

- Contact lists should be available for teachers and adult providers
- Need to know who are the point people for certain topics such as assessments, course of study, post high school options and services



Focus Group 2

- Host Parent and Adult Service Events
- Design a collaborative webpage for each school/program that includes all stakeholders information and input

BEST PRACTICE TIPS

Focus Groups 1 and 2

Focus Group 1

- Start Early in Middle School
- Network with adult/high school resources
- Include Health Needs in a holistic viewpoint
- Teach families what questions to ask
- Give students multiple Voc skill building experiences
- Person Centered Planning
- Strengthen vertical communication across districts
- Create new Multi Need Transition Boards
- Focus on level of independence for each student
- Do agency tours
- Teachers accept the challenge and take risks in helping students
- Increase functional life skills
- Infuse transition info in current methods of communication

BEST PRACTICE TIPS

Focus Groups 1 and 2

Focus Group 2

- Statements of competence levels
- Reduce prompting through data collection
- On going early start process, learning about the role of the parent in transition planning
- Acronym Solver, make user friendly
- Define the end vision and what it looks like
- Student Center Choices
- Get to the big picture at a younger age
- Instill self advocacy in programming

What does success look like?

Focus Group 1

- Cohesive Transition Plans
- Student meaningful presence at meetings
- Focus on transition is positive
- Knowing all the Post High School Resources
- Empowered teachers and parents
- Network of school and adult providers

Focus Group 2

- Family and Teachers empowered with info to plan more effectively with student
- Identify and establish systems to elevate the “*no one told me*” to “*thanks for being our partner in planning*”
- Tools developed to keep information needed up to date

Suggested Education & Training for Teachers/School Staff



Venues of Delivery	Specific Learning
Collaborative Groups	Handouts of Info for Parents
Newsletters	Step by Step Guides on Info to deliver
Develop Contact of Adult Resources	Person Centered Transition Planning
YouTube	Learning the systems of support available
Collaboration with Adult Services	22+ Services/Checklist of Priorities
Knowing Community Options	Understanding the Funding
Connection with other High Schools	Fading Supports

Venues of Delivery

Specific Learning

Having Vertical Communication HS to Middle

Roles of everyone in the process

Prof Development/Group Tours

What is available for MN post HS

Parent Nights

How to balance info to share/ when

Group Tours: schools and agencies

Writing the Transition Plan

Video Clips

How to chunk info so it is not so overwhelming to parents

Forum

Reducing Prompts

Networks

Timelines for Staff

Having times schedule to talk outside of the meetings

Transition Curriculum options

Start at 6th Grade

Establishing Outreach opportunities

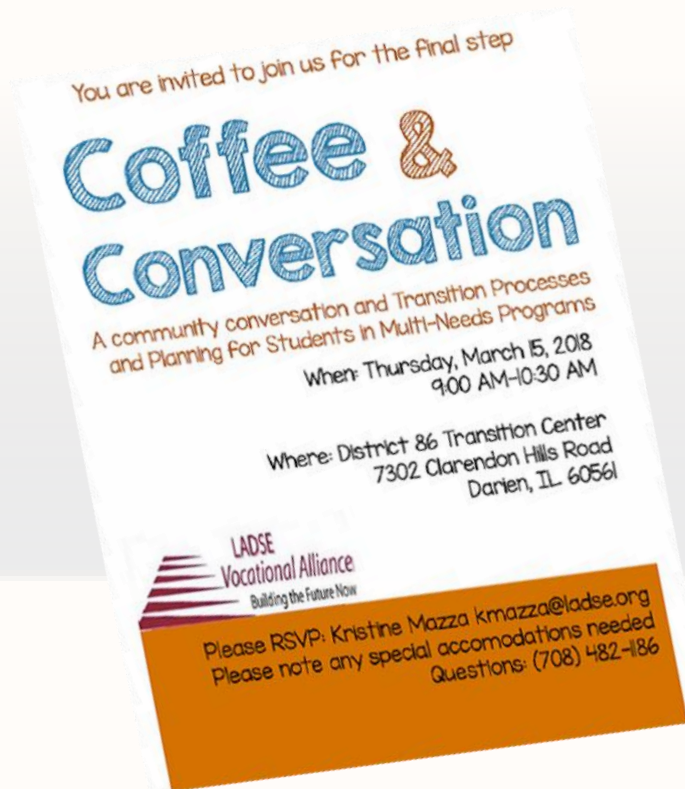
Suggested Education & Training for Parents and Caregivers



Venues of Delivery	Specific Learning
School Meetings	PUNS
Single Website (LADSE)	Timelines/ To Do Lists
Consistent Messages	Case Managers Role
Systemic Training	Writing Transition Goals
Field Trips	Outcomes for students that are aligned with their skills and interests
Point Person on future planning in each school	What are the Transition Basics

Venues of Delivery	Specific Learning
Conference	Differences between High School and Adult Services
On line Transition Planning Support Group	What are the basics in Transition Planning
Written Materials and Guides	The Independence Factor
Parent Group Meetings	Transferring Guardianship
	Getting Involved in the Community
	Questions to Ask
	Terminology
	SSI Government Benefits
	Community Opportunities
	How to keep and manage records Filling in the calendar after graduation

Highlights of Action Steps discussed at our Coffee and Conversation



- Use real life transition stories from our students in District programs
- Do a standard and expected workshop in end of 6th beginning of 7th grade for parents
- Develop Transition Parent Groups
Incoming Students, Current Students and Exited Students
- Have as an agenda item at all Department Meetings
- Continual evaluation of our own performance
- Develop Educator Summits
- Centralized Multi District Go-To Hub for Transition Information Sharing

Panel Introductions

Alex Budziszewski, Moderator



1. What additional gaps do we see?
2. What do parents need to know specific to their child with multiple needs?
3. What methods work for you in reaching out to parents and staff?
4. What does success look like and how do we measure it?
5. Audience Feedback, Questions and Answers