



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

January, 2023
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Understanding the Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP)

By Wendy Overturf

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal special education law that ensures all children with disabilities have access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE). IDEA recognizes the importance of preparing youth for success after high school and it states that transition planning for students who receive special education services and have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) must begin by age 16. (In Wisconsin, transition planning starts at age 14.)

[Read Entire Article](#)

UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

WSEMS: Mediation

Presenter: This is a pre-recorded webinar.

Date: January 9, 2023

Mindfulness & Self-Compassion Practices with Parents of Children with Special Needs

Presenter: Barbara Moser, Mindful Self-Compassion Instructor

Date: January 11, 2023

Entendiendo los beneficios de SSI

Presenter: Sra. Elida Elizondo es la especialista en asuntos públicos de la administración del seguro social

Date: January 12, 2023

Behavior Impedes Learning. I've Checked yes, now what?

Presenters: Katie Berg, Student Advocate and Eva Shaw, Consultant, DPI

Date: January 25, 2023

IEP 1: Conceptos básicos de educación especial

Presenter: WI FACETS staff

Date: January 26, 2023

Section 504- What Parents Need to Know

Presenter: This is a pre-recorded webinar.

Date: January 31, 2023

HOME LEARNING



Children's Activity Calendar

'Tis the season for learning. Take kids on a virtual zoo visit, graph snowfall amounts, learn about holiday celebrations from other cultures and religions, and reflect on the joys of another year.

[Download Calendar](#)

January 1-7, 2023-National New Year's Resolution Week

New Year's resolutions can teach kids how to set and steadily work toward goals. This can be especially valuable for those who have learning and thinking differences. But kids may need some help creating meaningful goals they can stick with.

However appealing an end goal is, it is easy to get sidetracked. Help kids develop a plan by following the same SMART guidelines that are used for an IEP goal. Make sure the goal is:

- **Specific:** The resolution should include the child's goal, the skill the child is working on, and how the child will achieve it: "To become a better reader by the end of May, I will read at least 20 minutes each night."
- **Measurable:** The child should track progress — on a chart or in regular check-ins with parents.
- **Attainable:** The goal should be ambitious but realistic — something that will stretch the child's skills without being overwhelming.
- **Results-oriented:** The resolution should explain how the child will know if the goal has been met. For example: "By reading at least 20 minutes a night my reading level will increase one level by end of May."
- **Time-bound:** The child's resolution should specify a reasonable time frame and can include mini-goals along the way as mini-successes can be very motivating.

This can easily become a family activity. A parent can make a resolution to read too! Ideally, everyone can read at same time.



January 8-14, 2023
National Pizza Week

- Learn more about fractions with a tasty pizza in this [math activity](#) for young learners.
- Check out these read alouds: [A Pizza with Everything On It](#) and [Pete the Cat and the Perfect Pizza Party](#)



January 16, 2023
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day falls on the third Monday of January each year. It is a day to remember and honor the great civil rights leader. Watch this [video](#) to learn more about the man

and why the day is celebrated.



Winnie the Pooh Day - January 18, 2023

National Winnie the Pooh Day on January 18th celebrates author A.A. Milne's birthday who was born on January 18, 1882. He brought the adorable, honey-loving bear to life in his stories, which also featured his son, Christopher Robin. Celebrate the day by reading along with or listening to these read alouds.

- [What Good Friends Do](#)
- [Winnie the Pooh and the Honey Tree](#)



January 20, 2023 Take a Walk Outdoors Day

Unless the weather outside is extremely cold or treacherous, take some time to bundle up, get outside and breathe some fresh outdoor air. Walking outside can be a great mental health break and provides good exercise.



January 29, 2023 National Puzzle Day

Puzzle games are great for exercising the brain as well as providing entertainment. This [website](#) offers many printable puzzle options such as [crosswords](#), [word searches](#), [sudoku](#), and so much more.

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

Engaging & Supporting Families through Groups & Networks - A Serving on Groups Workshop Series

This 4-part virtual workshop series will follow the Serving on Groups that Makes Decisions Guidebook curriculum. Each session will focus on a different part of the guidebook and participants will engage in activities that will help them define a particular group's structure and purpose (that they are working with or hope to develop). This series will also assist individuals to assess and grow their own personal strengths, knowledge, and skills.

Each registered participant will receive a Serving on Groups Guidebook. Please be sure to include your street address when registering.

Dates: Feb 8, Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 22, 2023. All meetings begin at 6pm.

Supporting Neurodiverse Students Professional Learning System (SNS)

The Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS) Professional Learning System, supported through a grant from the Wisconsin DPI, provides learning opportunities with a focus on regulation, social communication, flexibility, resilience, sensory processing, and executive functioning. It includes regional training sessions, web-based events, a web-based toolkit, and other professional learning opportunities to support educators and families serving students with disability-related needs in the area of social and emotional learning (SEL).

Upcoming Events for 2023:

Social Communication: Modes and Language - Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 - 3:30-4:30 - Virtual Cohort

Understanding "Sensory" - Jan 11, 8:00-10:00 - Virtual

Hidden Curriculum - Feb 1, 1:00-3:00 - Virtual

Body Processing: Regulation and Sensory - Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 - 3:30-4:30 - Virtual Cohort

For a complete calendar and registration information, please visit the [SNS Learning Events Registration](#) webpage. For more information about the SNS, please visit the [Supporting Neurodiverse Students Professional Learning System](#) webpage.

Families as Partners

This is a multi-day education and leadership opportunity beginning in 2023 for families with an emphasis on building relationships with school staff that can lead to improved student outcomes. Skill-building in the areas of communication and authentic relationships focused on family-school collaborations will be a central theme throughout all sessions. Meetings will be held via Zoom. There are two sessions to choose from. Session dates and times:

Session 1-Tuesdays - Jan 10 & 24, Feb 7 & 21, Mar 7 & 21 (6:00-8:00 pm) and

Session 2-Saturdays - Jan 14 & 28, Feb 11 & 25, and Mar 11 & 25 (9:00-11:00 am)

Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning

The Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning is for educators, families, caregivers, and others who want to see improvement in family engagement across the state of Wisconsin. Learn from experts in the field, participate in book studies, and other learning opportunities designed for educators, parents, families, and others. Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 4-5:30 pm via Zoom.

Upcoming schedule and topics:

Jan 11, 2023 - Home and School Ongoing Communication

Feb 8, 2023 - Parent-Teacher Home Visits

Mar 8, 2023 - Topic to be determined

Apr 12, 2023 - Topic to be determined

May 10, 2023 - Topic to be determined

Training for Home Language Interpreters

As a result of this training, participants can expect:

- Increased knowledge of tools and resources for interpreters as well as legal responsibilities and requirements related to translation and interpretation of special education, terms and concepts.
- Increased skills to handle common ethical considerations while interpreting IEP meetings.
- Increased awareness of state and federal laws, regulations and policies related to the educational rights of students who receive special education through an IEP and who also may be English Learners (ELs).

Date: Feb 17, 2023, 9am-3pm

Location: CESA 6, Oshkosh, WI

Click [here](#) for registration information.

Wisconsin Transition Conference - Ignite Your Passion!

Get excited about Career and Technical Education (CTE) and transition design for students with special needs. CTE is again the focus in many school districts to train and prepare young people for exciting careers beyond high school. The conference will highlight best practices for teaching and preparing students with special needs for careers that will address and ignite their passion.

Dates: February 16-17, 2023

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Title III Bilingual-Bicultural Conference

This conference is for EL/BL Educators, Special Education Educators, School Psychologists, School and District Leaders and any other relevant stakeholders engaged in the education of multilingual learners. Teams are encouraged to plan to attend together and engage in a rich interactive-workshop training surrounding developing culturally and linguistically sustaining multi-level systems of support specific for multilingual learners who may or may not have a disability. Complete information can be found on the [conference flyer](#). [Register on myQuickReg](#).

Dates: March 9-10, 2023

Location: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells, WI

13th Annual Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference-Save the Date

Dates: April 13-14, 2023

This will be an online conference.

Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin Annual Conference-Save the Date

Dates: April 20-22, 2023

Location: KI Convention Center, Green Bay, WI.

Circles of Life Conference-Save the Date

Dates: May 11-12, 2023

Location: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells, WI

Circles of Life is Wisconsin's annual conference for families who have children with disabilities and the providers and other professionals who support them.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Updated Webpage: Confidentiality, Consent, and Student Records

The [Confidentiality, Consent, and Student Records webpage](#) has been updated and provides various links to instructive resources from the state and federal levels. This website has links to Wisconsin Pupil Records Information, FERPA & IDEA Confidentiality, HIPAA v FERPA, Confidential Youth Services, and resources related to parent, guardian, and custodial rights.

Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) Resources for Educators

The [Transition Improvement Grant](#) (TIG) has created several resources to better familiarize educators with creating evidence-based and compliant Postsecondary Transition Plans (PTPs) for students with IEPs. The [PTP Tips](#) document provides information on compliance, PTP report guidance, and problem-solving strategies. Within the document, PTP users will find helpful [technical assistance videos](#) to assist in problem solving common issues in the PTP application.

TIG has created an online learning opportunity for educators. The [Introduction to the Postsecondary Transition Plan course](#) is designed to assist in building the capacity to create effective transition plans for students with IEPs. The course includes the procedural requirements of the PTP, an overview of culturally responsive and best practices, resources, and shortcuts to increase efficiency within the PTP.

This course is hosted at no cost on UW-Whitewater's platform. After completion of this course, participants will have the knowledge and skills to develop not only a compliant PTP, but a best practice plan for students with IEPs to assist them in planning for life after high school.

ONLINE RESOURCES: TRANSITION

WI FACETS Endless Possibilities Conference

The Endless Possibilities conference is an annual event coordinated by WI FACETS, in collaboration with Wisconsin DPI, UW-Whitewater, WSPEI and other family support/disability organizations. The conference provides a full day of training from experts on various topics connected to special education for families of students with IEPs and the professionals who support them. The 2021 conference topic was **"Successful Transitions"** and included presentations on topics such as transition to adult healthcare, the PTP and many others. Session recordings, including the Keynote from Dan Habib, are available [here](#). Save the date for the **2023 Endless Possibilities conference on Friday, August 4th**, more details to come!

Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)

This website has many links to articles and information on transition that are specifically designed for both parents and students.

Transition Improvement Grant (TIG)

TIG is designed to strengthen and accelerate the transition process in our Wisconsin schools to increase high school graduation rates, decrease dropout rates, improve the quality of postsecondary transition plans (PTP), and develop strong career, college, and community readiness among our students with disabilities through positive post school outcomes. The TIG has developed several tools which incorporate reviewing data, strategic planning, and implementation of transition practices to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

This website has a variety of resources related to transition, including information about outside agencies. It also includes a link to [College, Career, and Community Readiness for Students with IEPs](#) to support students at all ages and developmental levels to be independent and college, career, and community ready.

[Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(DVR\)](#)

A federal/state program designed to obtain, maintain, and advance employment for people with disabilities by working with DVR consumers, employers, and other partners. Also check out the [FFY2022 WRC Annual Report](#). This report comes from the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council which is an advisory group to the DVR. The report highlights findings regarding the operations of DVR and its services to consumers throughout the state.

[Opening Doors to Self-Determination Skills](#) ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))

Setting and achieving goals helps students grow. Knowing their strengths and addressing their weaknesses is important as students prepare for life after high school. As students move through school and toward adulthood, they go through a process of considering who they are and who they wish to become. Students and families also must consider: what kind of work would they like to do, what will they need to do to pursue this work, what living arrangements do they envision, and what education, training, and services will be available to them along the way. Students can work with counselors, parents, and teachers as they work with this resource.

[How to Use the WiTransition App & Your Postsecondary Transition Plan \(PTP\)](#)

This resource helps guide parents and students in using the WiTransition App to prepare for an IEP meeting that includes a Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP). A PTP is required in Wisconsin for all IEPs if the student will be turning 14 during the duration of the IEP. It is then included in all subsequent years. Parents and students can also access a “demo” PTP planning page to be used before the IEP meeting.

[Transition of Students with Disabilities to Postsecondary Education:](#)

[A Guide for High School Educators](#)

This guide is published by the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. The purpose of this guide is to provide high school educators with answers to questions students with disabilities and their families may have as they get ready to move to the postsecondary education environment.

[Transition Planning for Students with IEPs](#)

Learn how this part of the IEP allows teens in special education to outline goals that will help them achieve their post-high school plans.

[National Parent Center on Transition and Employment](#)

This website has a multitude of links related to transition planning and work-based learning for students with disabilities.

[Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education & Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities](#)

This guide is published by The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). OSERS developed this transition guide to advance their efforts in ensuring that all students and youth with disabilities are equipped with the skills and knowledge to be engaged in the 21st Century workforce.

[RAISE](#)

RAISE partners with the [Center for Parent Center Information and Resources \(CPIR\)](#) to provide information on a variety of transition-related topics. Parent centers, families, and youth can search the resource database, courtesy of the CPIR.

RESEARCH

Secondary Transition Predictors of Postschool Success: An Update to the Research Base

Mazzotti, V. L., Rowe, D. A., Kwiatek, S., Voggt, A., Chang, W.-H., Fowler, C. H., Poppen, M., Sinclair, J., & Test, D. W. (2021). Secondary Transition Predictors of Postschool Success: An Update to the Research Base. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 44(1), 47–64. [Read Full Article](#)

Research suggests youth with disabilities are less likely to experience positive outcomes compared to peers without disabilities. Identification of in-school predictors of postschool success can provide teachers (e.g., special education, general education, career technical education), administrators, district-level personnel, and vocational rehabilitation counselors with information to design, evaluate, and improve transition programs. The purpose of this systematic literature review was to examine secondary transition correlational literature to identify additional evidence to support existing predictors and identify new predictors of postschool success. Results provided additional evidence for 14 existing predictors and identified three new predictors. Limitations and implications for research, policy, and practice are discussed.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming newsletter topics:

February: Intellectual Disabilities

March: Early Childhood

April: Autism Spectrum Disorders

To submit contributions of articles, events, or resources you may use the [Word document](#). Send submissions to [Wendy Overurf](#). If you are unable to access the form, you may send the information in an email.

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to family involvement/parent leadership resources, advertisements for statewide trainings for parents, youth or parent/educator audiences, information about statewide parent agencies, recent research pertaining to family engagement, and family engagement success articles.

This monthly update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement. If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please email [WI FACETS](#).

The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter can be found online: www.servingongroups.org/newsletter



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