

Practical Transition Strategies to Heighten Expectations, Engagement, and Empowerment for Students with Disabilities

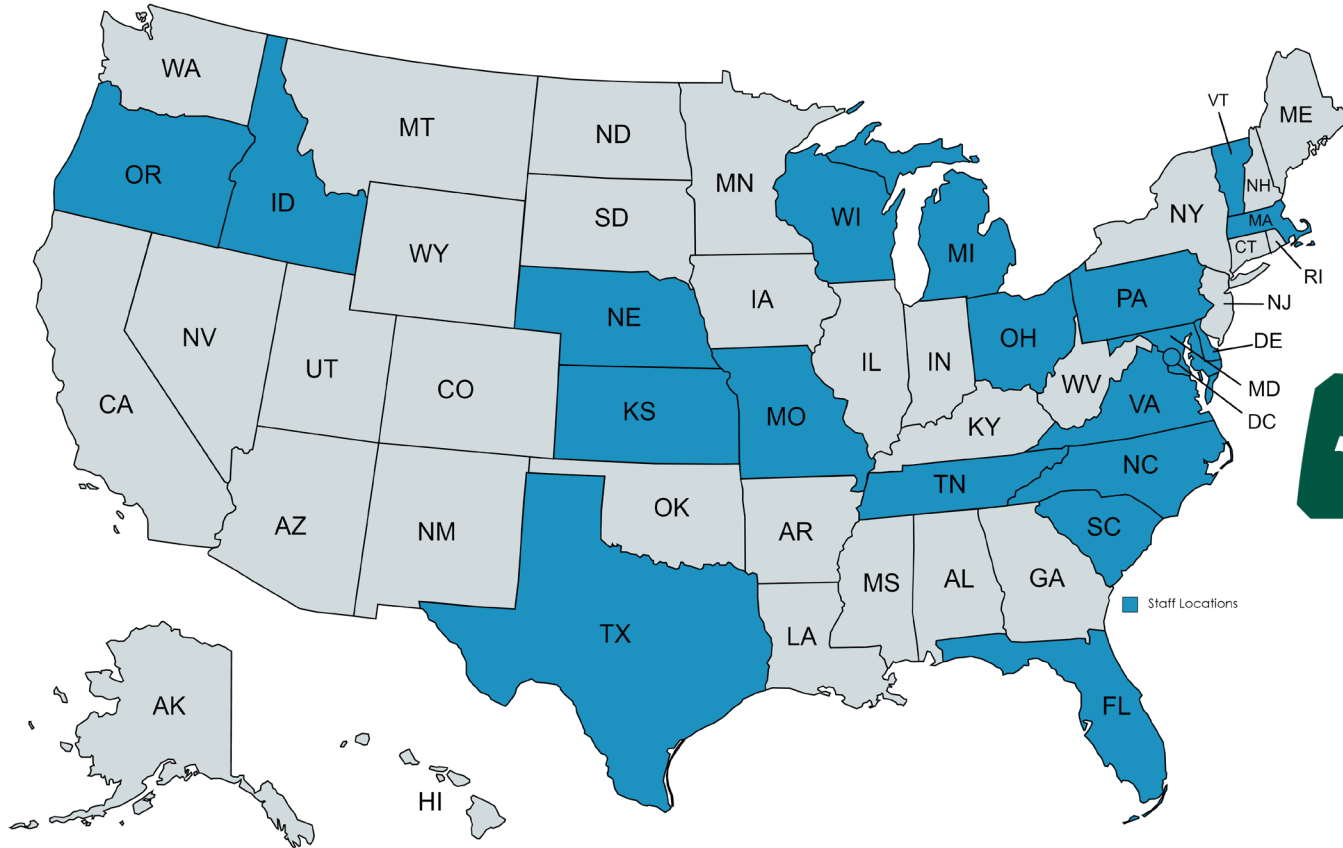
Smart Beginnings – Families and Advocates

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What is the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative (NTACT:C)?

- Jointly funded center: The US Department of Education - The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)
- Helps state and local schools and agencies to better support students and youth in making successful transitions to adult life
- Builds on history of:
 - ✓ WINTAC (RSA)
 - ✓ YTAC (RSA)
 - ✓ NTACT (OSEP & RSA)

NTACT:C Staff



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NTACT:C Website – www.transitionta.org

- Live and Pre-recorded Webinars
- Watch Parties
- Transition Life Hacks (videos)
- Online Modules & Mini-modules
- FAQs
- Presenter guides, videos, documents, toolkits, data resources, etc.
- Sign up for our weekly email News Blast
- Email: ntact-collab@uncc.edu



Presentation Take-Aways

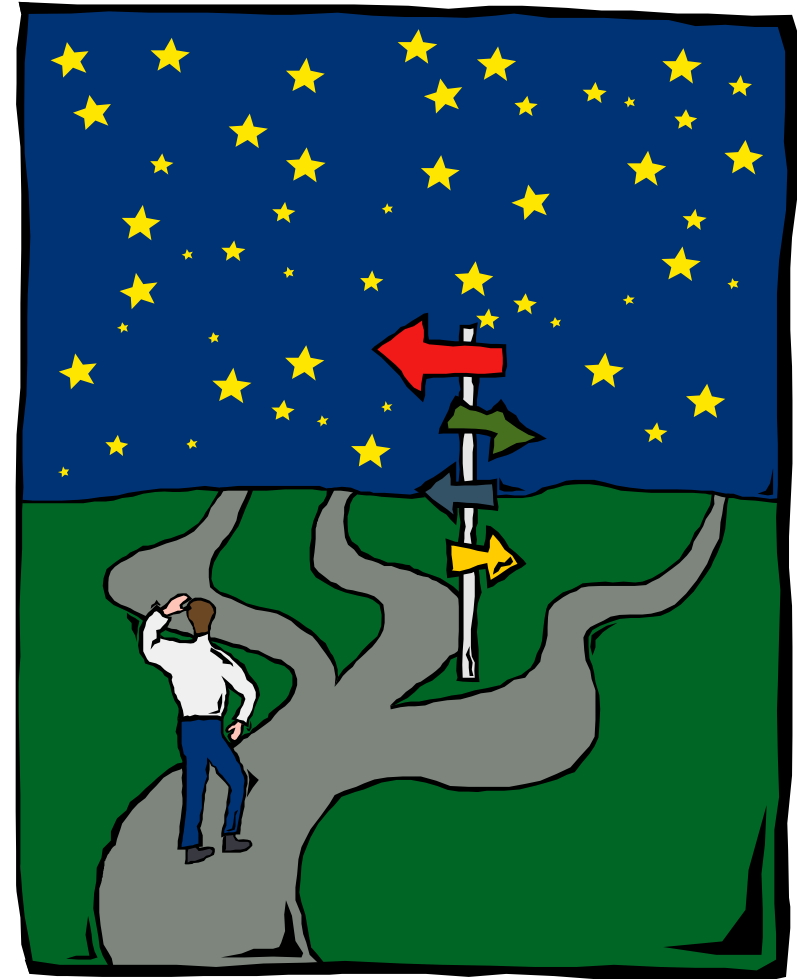
- Key commonalties and considerations for life transitions
- Collaboration and presumed competence are key
- Transition Resources

What is Transition?

Transition happens when a person moves from one life stage...

To another...

***PLAN FOR THE
FUTURE!***



Transition = A Coordinated Effort



Family Engagement

- Family input early in the transition process establishes a solid foundation for planning and builds critical connections and relationships with the transition partners
- It is vital that educators and agency staff:
 - ✓ Build a trustworthy relationship with the young person and family
 - ✓ Appreciate the fact that families have a long history of working with multiple professionals with mixed results
 - ✓ Provide support to families to plan for change during the transition process



Transition Covers All Of Life's Stages:

A “Transition” is any time an individual moves from one placement into another and are an ongoing process throughout an individual’s life.

- ✓ From Birth to 3 into Pre-School
- ✓ From Pre-School into Kindergarten
- ✓ From Kindergarten into Elementary School
- ✓ From Elementary School into Middle School
- ✓ From Middle School into High School
- ✓ From High School into College or Postsecondary Education
- ✓ From College/Postsecondary Education into Adult Living

Key Commonalities in Life Transitions

- Embrace change and recognize the stress
- Prepare and understand the next environment
- Build support networks and understand community and agency supports
- Explore, understand, and access tools and resources
- Practice self-care
- Be patient and allow time for success – celebrate the small gains

Presume Competence

- ✓ Learned Helplessness or Independence come from you
- ✓ There is true dignity in risk
- ✓ The development of self-determination is a learned behavior, based on experiences, attitudes and opportunities

Use Teachable Moments

Use real life situations

Making choices

Reasonable level of risk

Living with the consequences



How transitions can be easier on all concerned?

- ✓ Begin planning early and maintain consistency
- ✓ Understand and engage with **ALL** the necessary players
- ✓ Engage in family information sessions and trainings regarding the transition process and future options
- ✓ Engage in “move up” activities where the students and the families can meet the new teachers and staff

How transitions can be easier on all concerned? (continued)

- ✓ Engage in planning where everyone knows their responsibilities
- ✓ Observe stressors/ pressures/ situations beyond academic and connect with support
- ✓ Coordinate the transfer of relevant information to the next placement
- ✓ Connect with other families
- ✓ Remember the three Cs – Communication, Coordination, Collaboration

Resources

- ✓ [Center for Parent Information and Resources](#)
- ✓ [The Guideposts for Success: A Framework for the Future](#)
- ✓ [The Transition Coalition](#)

Thank you!



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Find us on:



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