

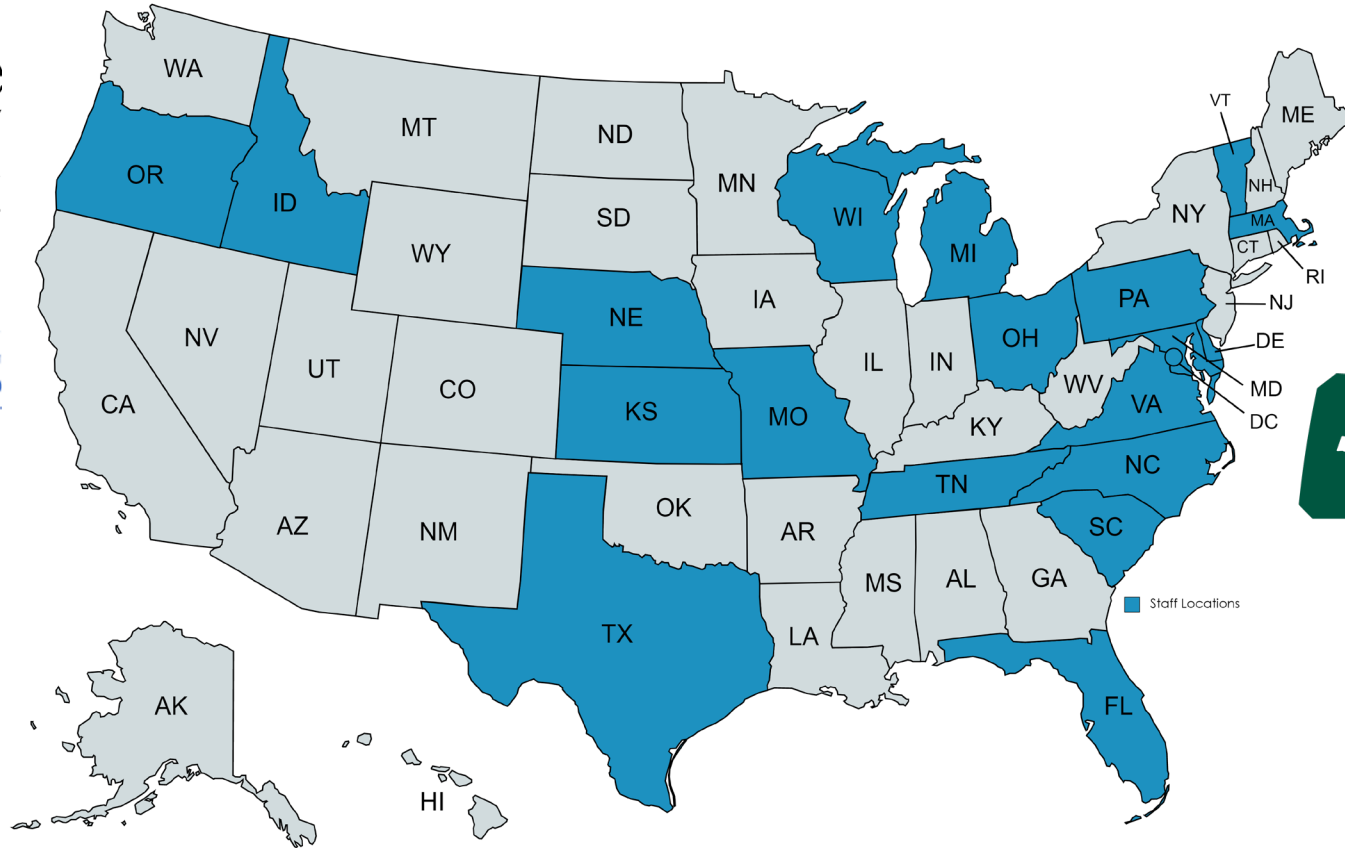
Practical Transition Strategies to Heighten Expectations, Engagement, and Empowerment for Students with Disabilities

Smart Beginnings – Teachers & Administrators
August 15, 2023

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



THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND



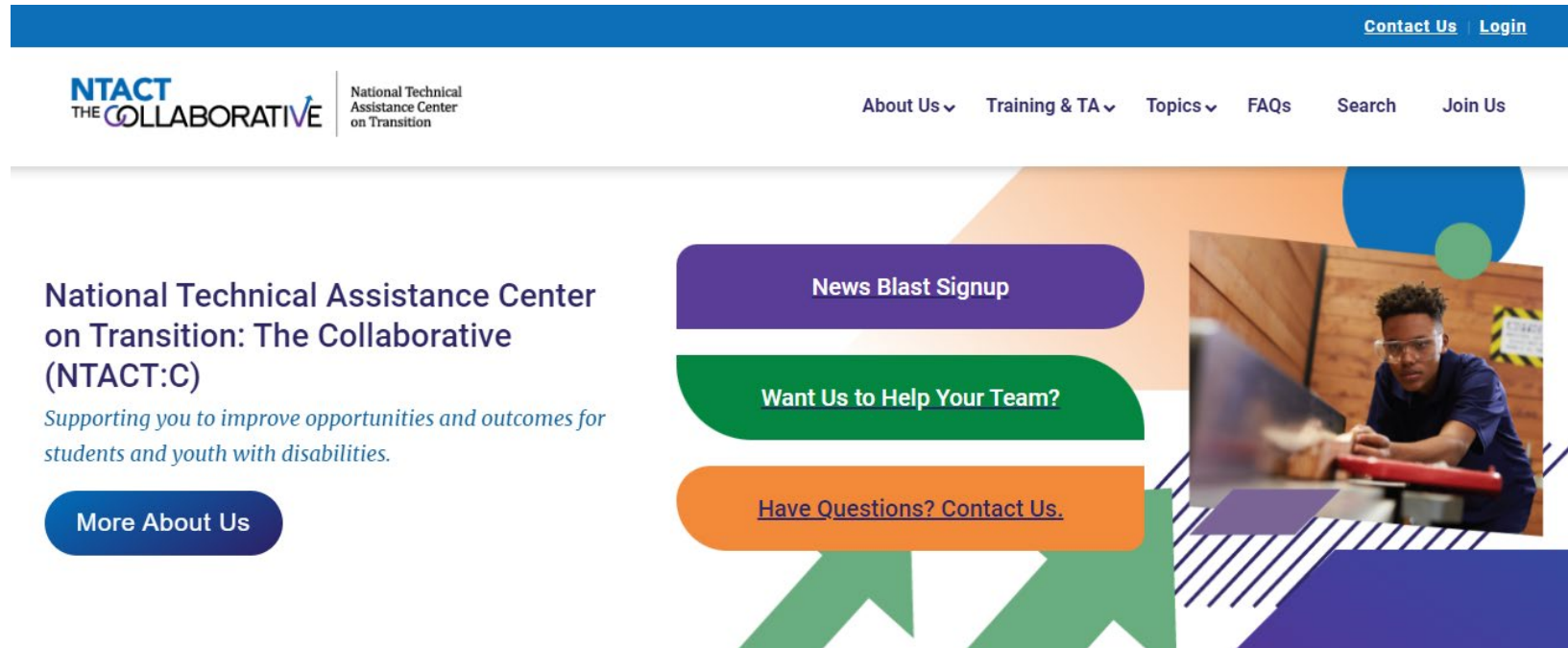
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

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 commonalities and considerations for life transitions
- Collaboration and student engagement are key
- Resources for K-12 Planning

Life Stage Transitions

- Transitions occur from one life cycle stage to the next
- Transition times often are the most challenging periods for families
- In families with a child with a disability, life cycle changes may be more stressful
- Key points that indicate transitions for youth without disabilities may be blurred or non-existent for youth with disabilities

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 Post Secondary Education
- From College/Post Secondary 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

How Can We Make This Transition Easier on All Concerned?

- ✓ Presume competence
- ✓ Begin planning early and maintain consistency
- ✓ Involve **ALL** of the necessary players
- ✓ Provide professional development at all levels regarding the transition process and involve inter-educational and interagency partners in this training
- ✓ Each year have a “move up” day where the students and the families can meet the new teachers and staff

How Can We Make This Transition Easier on All Concerned? (continued)

- Develop a plan 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
- Link families and youth with other families and youth
- Remember the three Cs – Communication, Coordination, Collaboration

Collaboration is Essential

Thoughtful and engaging collaboration is key to ensuring “seamless” transitions

Each team member:

- ✓ Brings unique **insights and expertise** to the table
- ✓ Considers **needs, interests and preferences** of the student
- ✓ Determines **how to support students** as they transition
- ✓ **Works together** to plan services that lead to a successful transition

Student Participation and Engagement is Key

- Hold high expectations
- Provide choices and ways to communicate
- Encourage decision-making, expression of preferences, and participation in planning
- Provide opportunities to practice self-advocacy and independent living skills in a variety of settings
- Arrange learning and skill building tasks to be challenging, but not impossible – not boring or irrelevant!
- Assist the student with identifying and arranging for appropriate:
 - ✓ Natural supports
 - ✓ Accommodations
 - ✓ Assistive technology (AT)

Resources for K-12 Planning

- ✓ [Maryland Career Development Framework for College & Career Readiness Grades Pre-K – Postsecondary/Adult](#)
- ✓ [National Center for College & Career Transitions – Career Development Competencies and Activities for the K-12 System](#)
- ✓ [Pennsylvania K-12 Guidance Plan](#)

Thank you!



Michael Stoehr

Knowledge Development and Technical Assistance Specialist
National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative (NTACT:C)
UNC Charlotte - Cato College of Education
mstoehr@charlotte.edu

Find us on:



Contact Us:

#transitionTA | transitionTA.org | ntact-collab@uncc.edu



Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

The contents of this presentation were developed under a grant (H326E200003) from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.