A Holistic Capacity-Building Framework for Family-Youth-School Partnerships in Transition

Meaningful Family Engagement to Improve Transition Planning and Services

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January 21, 2016
Providing *universal technical assistance & resources* to the **96 Parent Centers**

serving

families with children (ages 0-26) with disabilities &

youth with disabilities.

www.parentcenterhub.org
The National Resources For Access, Independence, Self-determination And Employment (RAISE) and 7 RSA-funded Parent Training And Information Centers are helping youth and young adults with disabilities to be real partners in attaining the education, supports and services they need to achieve competitive employment, independent living and empowerment.

www.raisecenter.org
Our Assumptions for Meaningful Family Engagement

- All families and youth have strengths.
- Parents want the best for their students.
Diversity is a strength

• Cultural differences are valid and valuable.

• All forms of families can function well for students.
Defining Family Engagement

Any way that a student’s adult caretaker (biological parents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) effectively supports learning and healthy development.
Family and Youth Engagement during transition?

- Shared responsibility
- Continuous across the life span
- Occurs in multiple settings

In order to support successful adult outcomes.
STEP 1: HOW DO YOU DEFINE FAMILY & YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?
Differing Roles for Families & Youth

• Supporters
• Encouragers
• Monitors
• Models
• Advocates/Activists
• Decision-makers/choosers
• Collaborators
• Champions

STEP 2: WHAT ARE THE ROLES THAT ARE KEY TO TRANSITIONING YOUTH TO THEIR ADULT LIVES?
A CHANGE IN MINDSET

The Drivers

I Teach You

“We will just do it.”

The Supporters

We Learn Together

“You can do it. I am here to help!”
**Figure 2: The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships**

**THE CHALLENGE**

- Lack of opportunities for School/Program Staff to build the capacity for partnerships
- Lack of opportunities for Families to build the capacity for partnerships

**FAMILY AND STAFF CAPACITY OUTCOMES**

- School and Program Staff who can
  - Honor and recognize families’ funds of knowledge
  - Connect family engagement to student learning
  - Create welcoming, inviting cultures

- Families who can negotiate multiple roles
  - Supporters
  - Encouragers
  - Monitors
  - Advocates
  - Decision Makers
  - Collaborators

**Effective Family–School Partnerships Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement**
What Do We Mean by Capacity?

- Capabilities
- Connections
- Confidence
- Cognition
CAPABILITIES – SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Youth & Families
• Knowledge about supports
• Understanding the differences between child and adult services
• Advocacy & Leadership development

Professionals
• Knowledgeable about the community
• Cultural competency
• Building trusting relationships

CONNECTIONS - RELATIONSHIPS

- Family
- Youth
- Communities
- Employers
- Professionals

CONFIDENCE – SELF-EFFICACY

• Personal beliefs about ability
• Knowing one’s own strengths
• Recognition of one’s own accomplishments
• Developing relationships across cultural lines

COGNITION – BELIEFS AND WORLDVIEW

Families & Youth
• Commitment to working as partners
• Belief that partnerships improve transition

Professionals
• View themselves as partners with the community
• Understanding of multiple roles families play

The Art of Youth Engagement
Youth Engagement Continuum

Strategies for Youth Engagement

- Listen
- Support decision making
- Include in the conversation
- Ask their opinions
- Involve in the planning process
- Treat in an age appropriate manner
Strategies for Family Engagement

Youth
Families
Professionals
Communities
Resources to Help Build Family & Youth Engagement
Draft Policy Statement on Family Engagement

(2015, December) On December 14, 2015, the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education released a draft policy statement on family engagement. The purpose of this policy statement is to provide recommendations from the Departments on systematically engaging families in their children’s development, learning, and wellness, across early childhood and elementary education settings. [...]
Families with a child who has a disability often need information about the disability of their child, about early intervention (for babies and toddlers), school services (for school-aged children), therapy, local policies, transportation, and much more. Every State has at least one Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) to offer families just this kind of information. Many States also have a Community Parent Resource Center (CPRC), which offers the same type of support and training to parents of children with disabilities. For a quick read on what PTIs and CPRCs do, and how they can help parents and families of children with disabilities: http://www.parentcenterhub.org/wp-content/uploads/repo_items/bp3.pdf

Use this interactive map to find the PTI or CPRC that serves your State or territory. Simply click on your State to see the contact information for the PTIs and CPRCs serving families in your State (for larger states, you may need to scroll down the list to see them all).
PA’s Secondary Transition Website

Welcome!

The purpose of this website is to provide youth, young adults, parents, and professionals with knowledge of the secondary transition process to facilitate a young person’s progress toward the attainment of his/her post-secondary goals related to education, employment, and community living.

The Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide website is a continual work in progress. We hope you will bookmark this site and check back regularly for updates and additions.
IDEA Partnership –
3-Part Cross-State Youth Webinars

http://www.sharedwork.org/web/transition/home
• Student Involvement in the IEP
• Assessments & Checklists for students, parents, educators
• Family Support
• Videos, Literature & Resources

www.imdetermined.org
HEATH Resource Center @ the National Youth Transitions Center
http://heath.gwu.edu/
References


Rosenberg, H., Research and Best Practices for Engaging Families to Increase Student Success. 2011

Contact Us:

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Center for Parent Information and Resources @ SPAN
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National Resources for Access Independence Self-determination and Employment TA Center
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