Program of Study Correlated with Improved Employment Outcomes

What is the level of evidence?

This predictor of post-school success has been labeled by NTACT at a Promising level of evidence, based on one a priori correlational study. More information on NTACT’s process for identifying effective practices is available here: NTACT’s Effective Practices.

What is the predictor?

A program of study is an individualized set of courses, experiences, and curriculum designed to develop students’ academic and functional achievement to support the attainment of students’ desired post-school goals.

What are the essential characteristics?

1. Ensure program of study is inclusive, academically rigorous, and supported by Universal Design for Learning principles.
2. Design multiple pathways in the general curriculum for satisfying standard diploma requirements.
3. Provide clearly defined graduation requirements leading to a state sanctioned exit document.
4. Establish planning process to assist students in developing their program of study.
5. Provide multiple opportunities (e.g., career technical education; community-based work, independent living, and community access experiences; school-based enterprises; dual credit through a cooperative agreement) for students to acquire needed credits to achieve standard diploma and ensure a seamless transition to postsecondary education and employment settings.

Where is the best place to find out how to do this practice?

The Division on Career Development and Transition of the Council for Exceptional Children developed a Fast Fact on Program of Study available here: https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/SPED/34ae1c1-7ded-4d59-af82-da4af08d5fc4/UploadedImages/DCDT_Program%20of%20Study_FINAL.pdf.

References used to establish this evidence base:


**Reference used to define and identify characteristics of this predictor:**