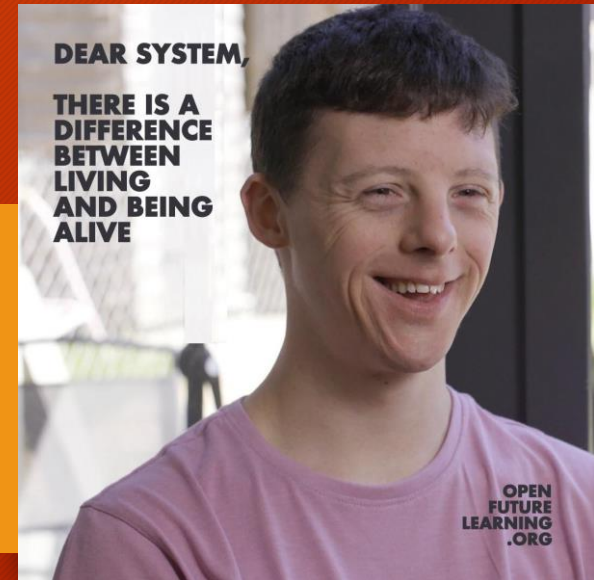


Transition for Young Adults with Disabilities



The Half-Way Point of the Race Only Marks the End of the Beginning

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**I WANT
A LIFE
NOT A
SERVICE**



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Gwen K. Chesterfield



TEAMWORK!!

*Coming together is the beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.*

Henry Ford

Welcome to Mars!!



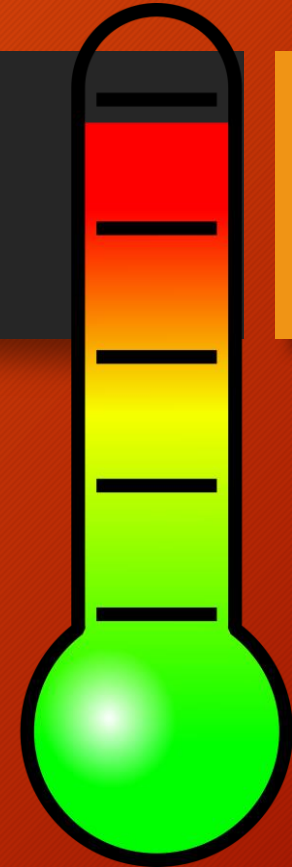
- High School!!
 - The foreign world of special education and transition IEPs
- What a combination!!

Speaking the Language

- Disability labels for students with IEPs in the school world
- “LRE [Least Restrictive Environment] Codes;” placement
- Confusing program names that are inconsistent across districts!
- TOR, TOS, PAR, Case Conference, gen ed, inclusion...etc.
- Transition; Transition IEPs; Transition Programs

Adjusting to the Climate

- There is **NOTHING** in life like high school!
- Special education “colony”
- The school day
- The school year... its ebb and flow
- Rules, authority, and communication
- Maturity (?!) and developmental stage of high school students



Navigating New Territory!

- Eligibility until age 22
- A 17 year old freshman??
- Diploma ...or Certificate of Completion
- 18 year old with 8 credits??



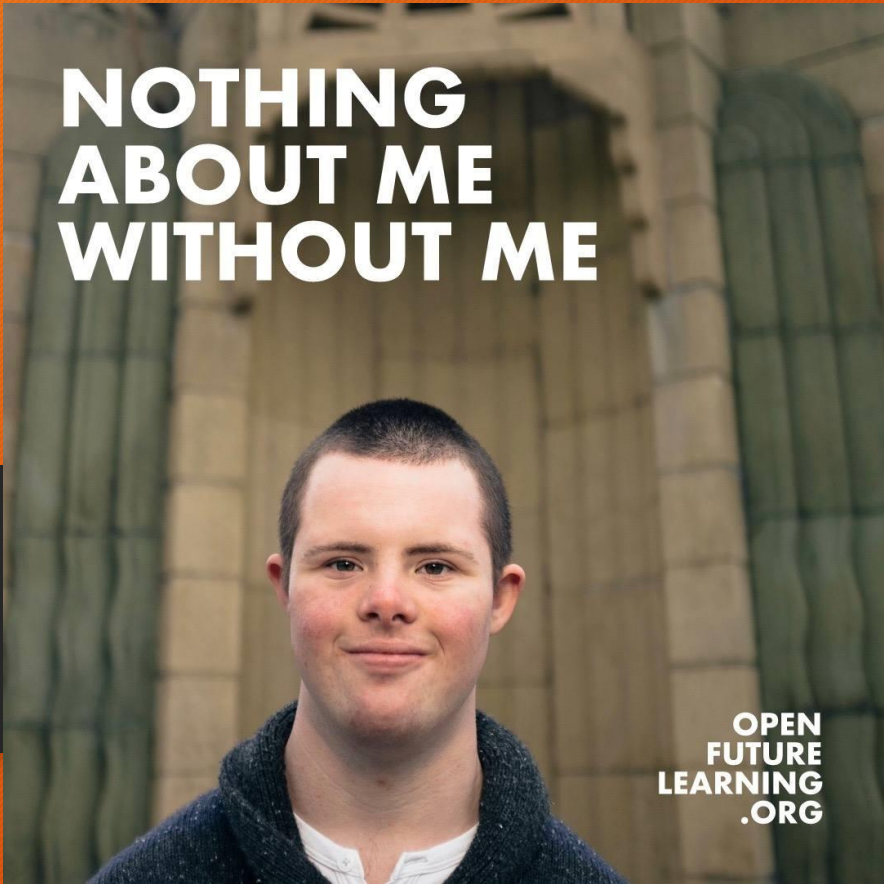
- Law, rules, parent rights
- Emancipated adult or legal guardian??
- Reevaluation... or not
- Career-Technology Centers



The Martians

- Special ed administration
- Building administration
- Building-based special ed staff
- KEY people/roles
- Primary contact person?
- Protocol

**NOTHING
ABOUT ME
WITHOUT ME**



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Self-Advocacy

Self-Directed IEPs?
Person-Centered?

May be a culture clash, depending upon the state of special education in your school

The Transitional Stage of Life: Ages 14 - 22

- Maturation during this age span is massive, regardless of disability!
- A goal without a plan is just a dream
 - Top careers high school students see as their future
 - College and careers goals requiring college... often without a high school diploma
- Life experiences are limited as compared to age peers
- Students on the autism spectrum are challenged to envision past today

FACT: Common Lived Experiences of Adults with Disabilities

- Boredom
- Loneliness, Isolation
- Minimal sense of purpose or accomplishment
- Control and choice rests mostly with others, not the individual
- Under or unemployment
- Not much to look forward to

Start there... then be intentional in aligning your efforts

Parents of People in the Transitional Stage of Life: Ages 14 - 22

- Fear of the scary, unknown future
 - Hyper focus on school rights and services (e.g., 1:1) - familiarity!
 - Tough to tackle post-high school vision and steps to get there
 - Radar may be off to options and opportunities outside of school
- Short-term vs. long term focus: graduation, 4 years
- Willingness to give space and opportunities for individual to problem-solve, make decisions, make mistakes (dignity of risk)
- Over protection, over supporting

Systematic, gradual steps across the high school years are essential to success



Working together can make things happen

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Know your person
2. Shared vision
3. Person first!
4. Age and stage
5. Find the “champion” at school
6. Possibilities, opportunities
7. Engage
8. Contribute

The Case Conference/IEP Meeting

...may not be the best use of your teaming time and efforts

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

1. Deepen your relationship with the individual and parent/guardian
 1. Holistic perspective is unique
 2. Current reality
 3. Desires and vision for the future
 4. Understanding of what brings joy, purpose and meaning to the individual
 5. Familiarity with what works and doesn't
 6. Elicit their interest and support for you engaging with the school team to maximize successful outcomes

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

2. Contribute to defining a personalized shared vision of life after high school for this individual
 1. What's the "destination?"
 2. How will we get there?
 3. Invest energy into the plan - what could be your role?

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

3. Strive to keep a “Person First” focus

1. The world typically has a “disability first” focus
2. Listen to the language!
3. Traditional medical model thinking may prevail
4. Out of the box thinking



Wonderful Resource

- openfuturelearning.org

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

4. Keep perspective of the age and stage norms
 1. Disability can distract us from this context
 2. Become or stay familiar, rooted in today
 3. Each generation is different!

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

5. Seek to identify the student's "champion" at school
 1. Who really "gets" this student?
 2. Who sees the possibilities beyond the road well traveled?
 3. Who advocates and supports his/her opportunities?
 4. Ask the student, converse
 5. Keep your eyes/ears open, it could be anyone of a variety of roles!

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

6. Educate yourself about promising practice possibilities
 1. Explore possibilities that stretch the road well traveled
 2. College and needed supports
 3. Thinkcollege.net
 4. Local post-secondary options
 5. Innovative local adult service options
 6. Align with the individual's profile

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

7. Engage: introduce your role and desire to partner
 1. Reach out
 2. Be a presence, a resource
 3. Keep “your finger in the pot”
 4. Provide information about your world to school folks: “translate”

To Do: TEAMING TIPS FOR SUCCESS

8. Take action to contribute support and services to promote progress toward the vision
 1. Complimentary, consistent direction across players is powerful
 2. Outside school hours/days
 3. Creative possibilities, e.g., share staff
 4. Added supports
 5. Your network, connections - parent to parent; adult to young adult; CM to CM...



Success will never be
a big step in the future;
success is a small step
taken just now.

Jonathan M. Anderson