

Practical Tips for Transition Assessment

Transition assessment is an integral component of the transition planning process. It is an ongoing process of collecting data on the student's strengths, preferences, interests, and needs across domains such as employment, education, and independent living. The data collected lays the foundation for defining goals and services for the student's transition IEP. The following tips will guide key stakeholders through the transition assessment process.

Create an ongoing and comprehensive assessment plan

Develop an annual transition assessment plan using both informal and formal assessments throughout the year. Discuss the transition assessment plan with the student and other collaborators.

Include family input in the data collecting process

Family members have valuable insight into student's strengths and skills. Ask families to share how they promote independence in the home and community.

Collaborate on the transition assessment process

Collaborate on gathering existing data. Interview and include data from students, educators, service providers, school counselors, and others who know the student well. This will provide a clearer picture of a student's academic and functional strengths.

Choose assessment tools that are tailored to the student

Select assessment tools and strategies that will yield information on the student's skills, strengths, interests, preferences, and experiences related to the student's postsecondary goals. It is important to be sensitive to cultural diversity when selecting assessment tools.

Diversify transition assessment

Transition assessments should cover many transition domains. Don't just use the same assessment over and over. Diversify the types of assessments to provide evidence of the student's strengths, preferences, interests, and needs related to each postsecondary goal.

Use a strengths-based approach to transition assessment

Uncover the student's strengths, skills, and interests when conducting transition assessments. This will help ensure that postsecondary goals match student strengths.

Review transition assessment results with the student

Involve the student in the transition assessment process. Use the results to guide the student in creating a vision for their future. Share the results and develop postsecondary goals that align with strengths and interests.

Use transition assessment data to drive instruction

Age-appropriate transition assessment serves as a guide in developing transition IEPs. Analyze the data to identify instructional needs, services, and course of study. Develop activities and services that are coordinated to build the skills needed for postsecondary success.

Summarize transition assessment data

Summarize the results of the assessment data in the Present Level of Performance on the IEP. Include the name of the assessment, the date given, and information gained.

The contents were developed under a contract (881-APE62524-H027A190107) from the Virginia Department of Education.

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