

Metro Region
ESU 2, 3, 19

Funded through the
Regional Team Grant &
Nebraska Department of
Education

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High School Transition



Issue #4, August 2012

Great Websites & Apps

WEBSITES ~

- ⇒ www.specialconnections.ku.edu ~ This site is to assist teachers with strategies for supporting students with disabilities to access the general education curriculum. There are four main components: instruction, collaboration, assessment & behavior plans. Each section has resources, teacher tools, case studies & online collaboration. There is also information on video modeling.

APPS ~ iPad, iPod & iPhone

- ⇒ Organizing & Taking Notes
 - **Abilipad** – a notepad app that allows users to customize their keyboard. It also has a text-to-speech function. \$19.99
 - **Audionote Notepad & Voice Recorder** – can synchronize typed notes with recorded audio for students who struggle with fine motor skills or organization. \$4.99
 - **Notability – Take Notes & Annotate PDFs with Dropbox** – combines handwriting, typing & voice recording for note taking. \$0.99



Grants ~

- ⇒ **CVS CAREMARK Community Grants** ~ Grants need to make a positive impact and will focus on inclusive programs and programs for children with disabilities under age 21 – academic & enrichment programs at public schools. Google “CVS Community Grants” to get to the website.



Transition 101

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Classroom Discussions



This section is devoted to topics that will provide for engaging discussions with students. Let us know if you have had any topics that have led to eye-opening and informative discussions.

- ❖ Activity:
 - Have students provide strengths of each student in the classroom so each student can see what others think are their strengths.
- ❖ What does “responsibility as an employee” mean? What areas are you strong in? What areas could you strengthen to be a better employee?

Dear Abbie,

This section will be devoted to answering questions teachers have regarding transition issues.

I'm an educator at a school district in a smaller community, how can I find job opportunities with a limited number of businesses?

~ Visit other school districts that have transition programs to get ideas.

~ Don't forget about the following opportunities in the area, such as:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Hair salons | Restaurants | Green houses | Billing for a business (stuffing envelopes) |
| Churches | Daycares | Motels | Hospitals (folding clean laundry) |
| Shredding/recycling | Food pantry (organizing food) | | Otis Spunckmeyer Cookies |

- Mailing opportunities for businesses (labeling)
- Grocery store (stocking, fronting & carrying groceries)
- Pop machines (stock, order & count money)

How do I find out if my family member is eligible for services?

People are determined to be eligible for services by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Rehabilitation Services or Nebraska Department of Education & the entity determines & authorizes a maximum level of paid support which can be provided. People can choose to use less than the maximum amount but they will not be able to obtain additional services without additional eligibility determination. People can also privately pay for services.

Will my family member lose their services if they lose their job?

No, the employment process is an ongoing one. If your family member loses or leaves a job they will begin the process of identifying other employment opportunities. It is expected everyone will have at least 6 jobs in our lifetime, learning a little with each change. It is a typical rhythm of adult life.

Other Services does NorthStar provide?

Besides Employment Services, NorthStar offers supports for community involvement, residential services & respite. The services are individual to support the person as much or as little as they desire. These supports encompass a wide variety of activities including support to access health care, received medications per doctor orders, transportation, opportunities for recreation leisure & organized sports & support in daily routines.

Community Involvement ~

NorthStar Services provides support for people to learn about & participate in their communities by interacting with others & becoming a part of their community. They can be a community member through volunteering, belonging to clubs & organizations & continuing to explore new interests & experiences.

Residential Services ~

NorthStar also provides residential services & can assist people in locating places to live. The person's choice of a home depends on the level of support needed, a person's preference and the resources available to the person. Residential services include:

- ◆ Sharing a home, supports & expenses with others in services
- ◆ Living in a NorthStar group home in a room & board situation
- ◆ Renting or buying their own home

NorthStar also assists people in their home to whatever areas they request & require including, but not limited to the following:

- ◆ Personal care needs – dressing, eating, bathing, toileting
- ◆ Home management – meals, laundry, shopping, housekeeping
- ◆ Transportation for activities that are out of the home
- ◆ Financial assistance – budgeting, paying bills, taxes, applications

***Contact the NorthStar
 Central Office at:***

1-800-672-8693

***1202 E. 14th Street
 Wayne, NE 68787***

Visit their website at:

www.northstarservices.net

Area Programs are located in the following Nebraska communities:

- Bloomfield
- Columbus
- Fremont
- Norfolk
- O'Neill
- South Sioux City
- Valentine
- Wayne
- West Point

Hot website links are available on their website to assist families at:

Employment Prospects for Today's Youth

The following information was reported in the Education Week article, "Majors Matter in Prospects for College Graduates". Caralee Adams reported on a Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce report on the employment prospects of recent high school and college graduates. Some details include:

- ◆ Unemployment among high school dropouts is 31.5%
- ◆ Unemployment among high school diploma-holders is 22.9%
- ◆ Unemployment among recent college graduates is 8.9%
- ◆ Graduates with these college majors had the **lowest unemployment rate**:
 - 5.4% ~ Health-care related
 - 5.4% ~ Education
 - 7.0% ~ Agriculture and Natural Sciences
 - 7.3% ~ Communication and Journalism
 - 7.4% ~ Business
 - 7.5% ~ Engineering
 - 7.7% ~ Life and Physical Sciences
- ◆ College Majors with the **highest unemployment rate**:
 - 13.9% ~ Architecture
 - 11.1% ~ Arts
 - 9.4% ~ Humanities and Liberal Arts
 - 8.9% ~ Social Sciences
 - 8.3% ~ Recreation
 - 8.2% ~ Computers and Math
 - 8.1% ~ Law and Public Policy

"Majors Matter Prospects for College Graduates" by Caralee Adams in *Education Week*, Jan. 11, 2012 (Vol. 31, #15, p. 13); the report is at <http://cew.georgetown.edu/unemployment/>



The Top 10 Work Values Employers Look For...

1. Strong Work Ethic
2. Dependable & Responsible
3. Positive Attitude
4. Adaptability
5. Honesty & Integrity
6. Self-Motivated
7. Motivated to Grow & Learn
8. Strong Self-Confidence
9. Professionalism
10. Loyalty

"The Top Ten Work Values Employers Look For" by Penny Loretto





Struggling to Learn? 10 Tips for Students

The following general tips are intended to help all students improve their organizational skills, work habits and overall production with schoolwork.

1. **Get Organized.** ~ Organize all of your materials, books, notebooks, etc.
2. **Plan & budget time.** ~ Make a plan that includes budgeting the amount of time needed for different subjects, break times & due dates for assignments
3. **Color Code.** ~ Use a color-coding system to organize materials for each subject.
4. **Record assignments.** ~ Use an assignment notebook to record all homework & long-term projects.
5. **Be methodical.** ~ Organize all your books, notes, handouts, flashcards, study-guides, outlines, etc. before studying for a test or quiz.
6. **Think small.** ~ Remember to break-up long-term assignments into small, manageable, working chunks in your daily homework schedule.
7. **Know your best time of day.** ~ Choose to study during the time of day/night when you are most alert.
8. **Take breaks.** ~ Take scheduled breaks during long homework assignments.
9. **Double-check your work.** ~ Make sure to check your assignments for errors before turning them.
10. **Take advantage of resources.** ~ Ask teachers, parents & tutors for extra help & clarification.

Information from: http://www.pbs.org/parents/strugglingtolearn/supporting_tips.html

7 Tips for Teachers & Paraeducators

The following general tips are intended to help all students become independent adults.

1. **Facilitate Peer Relationships:** Remind others to communicate directly with the students. Let students choose their own seat or place in the classroom. Give them space & freedom to socialize & develop friendships.
2. **Let students make choices:** Give students the ability to control their lives & interact with the environment. Offer choices to the student no matter how insignificant they may seem & what their communication skills are
3. **Let the students make mistakes & take risks:** Everyone learns from mistakes.
4. **Watch your voice & volume:** Discussions with other adults or students during instruction can be disruptive to the class. Also, treat students with respect to earn respect.
5. **Maintain student dignity!** Assume the student can do it! Be discreet about the student's physical needs.
6. **Help students create authentic work!** Students learn when they actively participate in assignments. Avoid completing assignments, taking tests, or answering questions for students. Show caregivers their child's genuine work & progress.
7. **Communicate and consult with caregivers:** Listen to what families have to say & teachers need to keep them informed. Learn the strategies that work at home & can work at school. Keep the lines of communication open.

Adapted from **Project Participate** copyright 2000, JFK Partners, UCDHSC

Upcoming Events



August 30, 2012 **NDE ILCD Monitoring Meeting** **Lincoln, NE**

All Day

No Cost

Information will be provided to districts regarding the monitoring by the Nebraska Department of Education of the ILCD (Improving Learning of Children with Disabilities) requirements. Please visit the NDE website under the Special Education section for more information.

September 13, 2012 **Standards Based IEP Training** **ESU #3**

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

\$35 if not in SCIP Consortium/ *Free* in SCIP Consortium

Marla Davis Holbrook, a nationally recognized expert in the area of standards-based IEPs, will present to K-12 teachers and related Service Staff. The special focus will be on developing transition goals. Register by September 6, 2012 by contacting ESU #3.

October 18, 2012 **NE Transition Summit: Keys to Career Readiness** **Grand Island**

It will be held @ the College Park in Grand Island, NE

Charlotte Alverson & Dawn Rowe will present regarding the National Post-School Outcomes Center. Sessions include: “Making Sense of Post-School Outcome Data and the Connections to Transition Program Improvement” & “Linking Post-School Outcomes to the Classroom: Evidence-Based Predictors & Practices”.

Please visit the NDE website under the Special Education section for more information & registration.

October 30, 2012 **Person-Centered Planning Strategies for Students with Disabilities** **ESU #3**

8:30 am – 3:30 pm Free to SE-CIP Grant district staff; \$30 for staff not in SE-CIP Grant

For high school general & special education teachers, school counselors & community service providers. Participants will learn to conduct futures planning meetings, use graphic facilitation, manage the action planning process, and identify key resources & people who can help. They will also learn how to engage students & help them to self-advocate and will learn how to translate the information from the futures plan into youth transition IEP goals.

November 8 & 9, 2012 **Tri-State Regional Special Ed Law Conference** **Omaha, NE**

For more information & registration, go to <http://www.education.ne.gov/speced/index.html>

The information will be on the right side under: “Office of Special Education”

This conference is designed for general & special education administrators & teachers, service providers, parents, advocates, lawyers and others involved in developing and supporting special education services for children with disabilities and their families. Most sessions will require a background in special education procedures and practice in order to apply the information to work or advocacy responsibilities.

Topics Include: Year in Review, Prior Written Notice, 504, Eligibility Determinations, Part C to Part B Transition, Discipline, School Safety and Individual Rights, Difficult IEP Team Members & many others...