



## State Support Team Region 13

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Dear colleagues responsible for secondary education and transition:

It's hard to believe this school year is behind us already! I hope you get to enjoy some well deserved rest and relaxation this summer. Thank you for your time and efforts in ensuring that your students have transition plans in place. It has been a pleasure working with you this year. I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts next year.

Much was accomplished this year for students! Professional Development entitled, **"The 9 Tools for Effective Transition Planning: Understanding the Process"** was offered in August of 2009 and April of 2010. Thanks to your feedback, the training has been revised and 3 tools were added to the content materials. It will be offered in September of 2010 for new district personnel and for retraining other educators. It is the foundation training to the understanding of the transition process and developing thoughtful and thorough secondary transition IEPs. **"The Secondary Transition: IEP Review"** was provided for 20 school districts and community schools through teacher based teams in the region.

I reviewed over 100 secondary transition IEPs. Each district sent 5-6 IEPs to me (last names were eliminated for confidentiality) and I developed suggestions on Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 based on ODE's IEP annotations and Indicator 13 rubric. Each team member was provided a packet of resources. I asked for feedback and districts responded with the following comments.

*"The training really helped answer specific questions and the supporting paperwork. The discussion about the 7 areas to be included in the transition pages was very helpful. Paperwork examples are good references and reminders....."* **Fairfield City Schools**

*"In my opinion this was the most useful training so far. It was helpful to see the errors in our district and to get suggestions from someone who knows our districts....."* **Madison Local School District**

*“I like that our IEPs that we wrote were used as examples. Edited with suggestions, and allowed us to discuss. This made it more valuable. The materials were organized and the setting was casual, all facilitating good discussion and meaningful professional development....”*

***Forest Hills Local School District***

*“Better explanations of what exactly should be in the transition section for each student.....”* ***Kings Local School District***

*“My teachers appreciated your feedback on the IEPs from our district. The teachers like having examples of appropriate phrases to use in various sections of the IEP. We are now much more informed about best practices...”* ***Wayne Local School District***

**Jackie Gardiner, Manager of Disability Education at Great Oaks** and I developed the Essential Skills Guidelines (ESG) and Course of Study (COS) to the all the affiliated school districts that accessed Great Oaks. The guidelines provided work trait characteristics, math and reading levels for competence in a specific career fields at the career center. A training manual and user’s guide were developed through a professional development training in May. The Essential Skills Guidelines (ESG) has been sent to Butler Tech Career Center, Warren County Career Center, and US Grant Center for approval through their administration.

**Sue Bitsko, Family Consultant State Support Team 13** and I have completed family training on secondary transition planning and the IEP. I have worked with Parent Mentors Terri Doerr in Lakota and Sandra Tolliver in Cincinnati Public Schools in presenting secondary transition planning with families.

My plans for professional development and training for school year 2010-2011 are:

1. **“Real” Transition Planning** with Middle and Junior High Schools with Building Level Teams in November of 2010.
2. **Tom Wheeler, Manager of Disability Education for Great Oaks** and I will be working on Postsecondary and Continuing Education Guidelines for colleges and other programs in the tri-state region for the Spring of 2011.
3. **Secondary Transition: IEP Review II (Indicator 13)** -“Rubric” Training for IEP Teams will be conducted in the Spring of 2011.

4. **Functional Assessment Training** will be provided in the Spring of 2011.
5. **Several projects** with school districts and community schools will be “piloted” in the school year.
6. **Regional Transition Council:** A group of community agencies in the four county areas whose purpose is the development of resources for children and families. This group meets every other month during the year.
7. **Secondary Transition Resource Team:** A group of educators and transition coordinators who provide daily services to students and families. The mission is to provide resources and to share secondary transition concerns with other colleagues. This group meets three times during the school year.

**My responsibility** is to ensure districts are offered professional development and training to meet State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators through ODE and SST 13. It is a collaborative effort with districts, community schools, career centers, and community organizations to develop services for students and families to accomplish positive results for the future. I hope you will plan to attend some or many of the offerings described above. Please contact me with questions or concerns. Have a great summer

Thanks for your support and patience,

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