



STATE TOOLKIT FOR EXAMINING  
POST-SCHOOL SUCCESS

**Overview.** The State Toolkit for Examining Post-School Success (STEPSS) is a web-based data-based decision making tool designed to support state departments of education in disseminating and using data related to secondary transition (SPP Part B Indicators 1, 2, 13, and 14) to improve in-school transition programs for youth with disabilities. STEPSS was developed collaboratively by the National Post-School Outcomes Center (NPSO), the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), and the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD).

**Purpose:** The STEPSS tool facilitates the dissemination of secondary transition data from States to their local districts and encourages district use of a data based decision-making model to identify needs and help prescribe appropriate strategies and interventions. *The State Department of Education uploads these Indicator data into the tool for dissemination to districts.* Local educators, in partnership with other stakeholders, can then use an ongoing data based decision-making model utilizing secondary transition data related to graduation (Indicator 1), dropout (Indicator 2), transition compliance of the IEP (Indicator 13), and post-school outcomes (Indicator 14) to improve in-school transition programs for youth with disabilities.

**Data based Decision-making Process:** STEPSS employs a structured, yearlong, multi-phase process in which stakeholders:

- **Examine** graduation, dropout, secondary transition components of the IEP, and post-school outcomes data;
- **Assess** progress toward meeting targets for each of these outcome areas;
- **Select** predictors of post-school success, and
- **Develop and implement** an action plan designed to improve in-school, secondary transition programs for students with disabilities.

The process is designed to support current state and district continuous improvement initiatives by utilizing secondary transition data available through state data collection systems.

STEPSS is located on a secure server at the University of Oregon. To learn more about STEPSS contact NPSO at 541.346.8412. To access STEPSS, go to [www.stepss.uoregon.edu](http://www.stepss.uoregon.edu)

