

Importance of Families Related to school Completion

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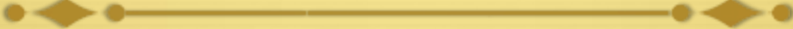
Engaging Families: Building Effective Partnerships in Order to Improve Outcomes

March 27, 2012

Importance of Families for School Completion

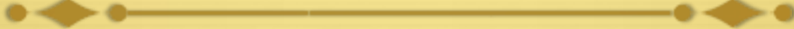
- ✦ Families have dreams for their children, and want what is best for them.
- ✦ With effective communication families can learn how to support their children's experience in school.
- ✦ Families that share the power of educating their children with schools see students learning as a collaborative.

Possible Benefits of Partnership for Students



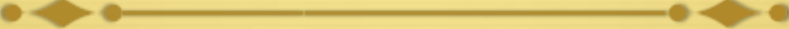
- ✦ Higher grade and test scores and enroll in higher level programs
- ✦ Promotion, passing classes, earning credits
- ✦ Regular attendance
- ✦ Better social skill & behavior and better adapted to school.
- ✦ Graduate and go on to post secondary education or employment

Wisconsin



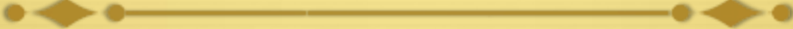
- ✦ Exiters from Special Education Each year
 - ✦ 8500 total, 6700 graduate, close to 1600 drop out each yr.
- ✦ School districts 400 plus mostly rural, 1 large, MPS
 - ✦ Racine, Green Bay, Madison, Kenosha
- ✦ History of providing support for transition practices
 - ✦ Statewide transition initiative and Website www.wsti.org , Post school follow-up project, State improvement grants
 - ✦ Parent projects, Youth Initiatives
 - ✦ WSPEI project YiPPE

What effective Parent/Family Engagement Looks Like?



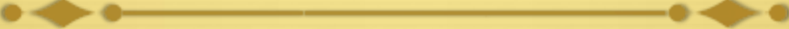
- ✦ Professional Perspective, Transition consultant for 30yr.
 - ✦ Parents at the table from the beginning, state level
 - ✦ State Level Advisory Groups
 - ✦ Grant development
 - ✦ Parent projects
 - ✦ Conference Planning & Presentations,
 - ✦ Community of Practice, work groups
 - ✦ State consultant works with sp ed team and parent groups
- ✦ Parents voice at the table changes that conversation, vs. invited in after all decisions are made to be told what to do

What effective Parent/Family Engagement Looks Like, Local school ?



- ✦ Parents are welcomed to the schools
- ✦ Respect shown through relationship building
- ✦ Link Families to Student Learning and Sustain relationships
- ✦ Ways exist for families and school staff to, together develop learning goals and students continue learning at home and in the community

Personal Perspective Parent Support



- ✧ Helped my daughter understand that disability is a part of who she is. Helped her remove negative thinking about herself as a person and learner.
- ✧ Introduced her to many people who had disabilities, adults, and students
- ✧ Supported her to accept herself as is, and speak up for herself and follow through with choices made
- ✧ Advocate with teachers
- ✧ Requested from her teachers, how she best learned and what teaching strategy worked best with her
- ✧ Support meaningful transition planning, use of natural supports, friends roommates etc., putting her in a position to tell her story & letting her go.

Steps (Strategies) Needed to Effect Engagement,

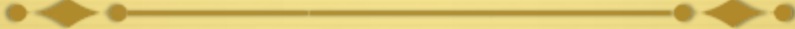
- ✧ Promote benefits of partnership to all partners and students
 - ✧ Increased feeling of support from school and other parents
 - ✧ More interaction with other families
 - ✧ More effective response to concerns
 - ✧ Increased awareness of student progress and how to help their students
- ✧ Student Engagement
 - ✧ Changing how you think of your self, remove ANTS Automatic Negative Thinking (See New Way of Thinking Guide)
 - ✧ Have Peer or Graduates share their stories of other students who faced similar challenges and yet had success
 - ✧ Identify and connect community resources

Graduation and Beyond

Adult Support

- ✦ Transition is about post school planning
 - ✦ Meaningful IEP'
 - ✦ Student led, clear connections to what is next
 - ✦ Meaningful course of study, & SOP,
 - ✦ Person centered planning creates natural supports for student interests vs. placement slots, interdependent living
 - ✦ Self awareness, self determination, self advocacy
 - ✦ Assist students to understand where are they are going, what skills they need, what skills do they have, and who are the contacts and supports for what is next
 - ✦ Look at employment, & post secondary education or training

Recommendations



- ✦ Remove ANTs empower students to change how they think about themselves
- ✦ Write meaningful IEPs with strong transition elements with student leadership
- ✦ Promote the social model of disability (natural characteristic in one's life) embraces interdependence & recognizes the benefit to be gained by a team effort.
- ✦ Promote person centered planning including vocational evaluation and assessment, training and education , independent living skill development, job exploration and job development

New Chapter; Role of Grandparents in School Completion

Wyatt

and

Cully

