BE YOUR OWN BEST ADVOCATE!!

MARY JANE WILLIAMS, BBA, CPA, MOM
INFO@FAMILYTOFAMILYNETWORK.ORG

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

PURPOSE OF IDEA

(INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004)

- Ensure that Children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their UNIQUE NEEDS and prepare them for:

  - FURTHER EDUCATION
  - EMPLOYMENT and
  - INDEPENDENT LIVING.

IDEA §300.1

Also known as:
College & Career Readiness

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

What do you hope adult life will look like:

for yourself?

OR

for your son or daughter?

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

WHERE DO YOU:

HCC
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Southeast

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

VISION

What are your *hopes* and *dreams* ?

Where are you going after school is over?

What *steps* will it take to get there?

Map out a *plan* because every decision, every action, is a piece of the puzzle that impacts that YOUR life.

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

WRITE DOWN
YOUR
VISION FOR FUTURE

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

Transition in the IEP

IEP Team identifies present levels of strengths, needs & interests based on assessments

Post Secondary Goals

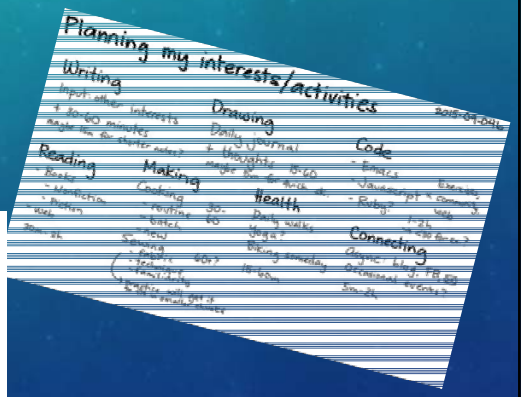
- Courses of Study
- Annual IEP Goals
- Coordination of Services
- Guardianship & Alternatives

Graduation

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

IEP Team identifies present levels of strengths, needs & interests

STRENGTHS & INTERESTS?
WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ATTRIBUTE?
SON OR DAUGHTER'S GREATEST ATTRIBUTE?



DEVELOPMENT OF POSTSECONDARY TRANSITION GOALS

Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to:

Training;

Education;

Employment; and

Independent Living Skills (where appropriate).

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

PRESENT LEVELS

- Education/Training
- Employment
- Independent Living
- Recreation/Leisure
- Community Participation
- Health/Medical
- Self Advocacy/Self Determination

ANNUAL IEP GOALS HELP YOU REACH YOUR POST SECONDARY GOALS:

- Education/Training
- Employment
- Independent Living
- Recreation/Leisure
- Community Participation
- Health/Medical
- Self Determination/Self Advocacy

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

SELF DETERMINATION / SELF ADVOCACY

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2018,
TRANSITION PLANNING FOR STUDENTS MUST ADDRESS:

1) the use and availability of appropriate opportunities to assist the student in developing decision-making skills and

2) supports and services that foster the student's independence and self-determination, including a *supported decision-making agreement*

FREEDOM *RESPONSIBILITY*

AUTHORITY *CONFIRMATION*

SUPPORT

SELF-DETERMINATION
A PROCESS THAT IS BUILT UPON THESE 5 PRINCIPLES:

FREEDOM - To decide how you want to live their life.

AUTHORITY - Control over your life, including your finances

SUPPORT - Organizing the people who support you to live your life, in a way that makes sense for you.

RESPONSIBILITY - For the wise use of public dollars and recognition of the contribution individuals with disabilities can make in their communities.

CONFIRMATION - Proof of your importance, the role you play in the lives of others. YOU MATTER!!!

SELF ADVOCACY/SELF DETERMINATION GOAL

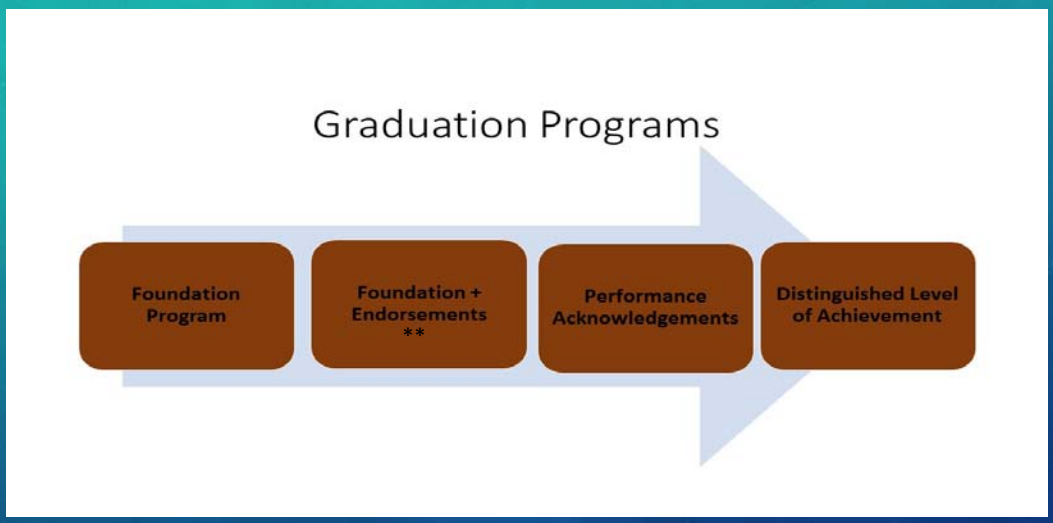
Learn About the IEP process and Lead Your OWN IEP Meeting

DESIGN A COURSE OF STUDY

What are the knowledge and skills needed for you to obtain your postsecondary goals?

WHAT'S IT GONNA TAKE??!!

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network



** Teachers/ARD Committee determine if curriculum modifications allowed

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

GRADUATION PROGRAMS

1. Foundation High School Program – 22 credits
   4 English, 3 Math, 3 Science, 3 Social Studies, 1 PE, 1 Art,
   2 Language Other than English (may be computer science), 5 electives

2. Performance Level
   Satisfactory performance on IB, SAT/ACT, PSAT, etc.
   Earn a industry certificate

3. Foundation + Endorsement** – 26 credits
   STEM (science, technology, engineering, math)
   Arts, Public Service, Business/Industry, Multidisciplinary

4. Distinguished Level of Achievement – 26 credits including:
   Algebra II (4^{th} math), 4^{th} Science, + 1 Endorsement**

** Teachers/ARD Committee determine if curriculum modifications allowed

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

GUARDIANSHIP OR ALTERNATIVES?

- Student becomes adult at age 18 regardless of level of disability
- "AGE OF MAJORITY"
- Parent Participation after age 18
- Alternatives –
  - Powers of Attorney
  - Consent for Advocacy
  - Supported Decision Making
  - Rep Payee for SSI
  - Others

(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

WHAT OTHER ACTIVITIES MIGHT YOU NEED TO LEARN ABOUT OR DO TO REACH YOUR GOALS?

- Education/Training
- Related services
- Community Experiences
- Post School Adult Living (occasionally)
- Daily Living Skills (every day)
- Employment

WHAT SERVICES DO YOU RECEIVE RIGHT NOW THAT YOU MAY NEED AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

- What do you need?
- Who will provide it?
- Do you need to find agency/person?
- Do you need to learn how to access that service?

CREATING INTERAGENCY LINKAGES "COORDINATION OF SERVICES"

Texas Workforce

Office of Disability Services

Local Authority (LIDDA)

TRI-COUNTY SERVICES

The HARRIS CENTER for Mental Health and IDD

texana

CREATING INTERAGENCY LINKAGES "COORDINATION OF SERVICES"

Social Security

Supplemental Security Income (Low Income/Disability)

Social Security Disability Income (working)

Disabled Adult Child
Retired Parent

Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC)

- Medicaid
- Medicaid Waivers
- Community First Choice
- Managed Care Organizations

Graduation Options
(ALL Texas students earn the same Diploma)

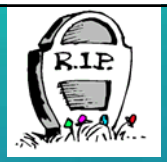
(c) 2018 Family to Family Network

Graduate By IEPs

- Full Time Employment
- Employment/Self Help Skills
- Access To Services

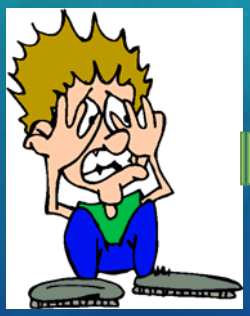
(c) 2018 Family to Family Network

What are your greatest fears when thinking about the future?



(c) 2018 Family to Family Network

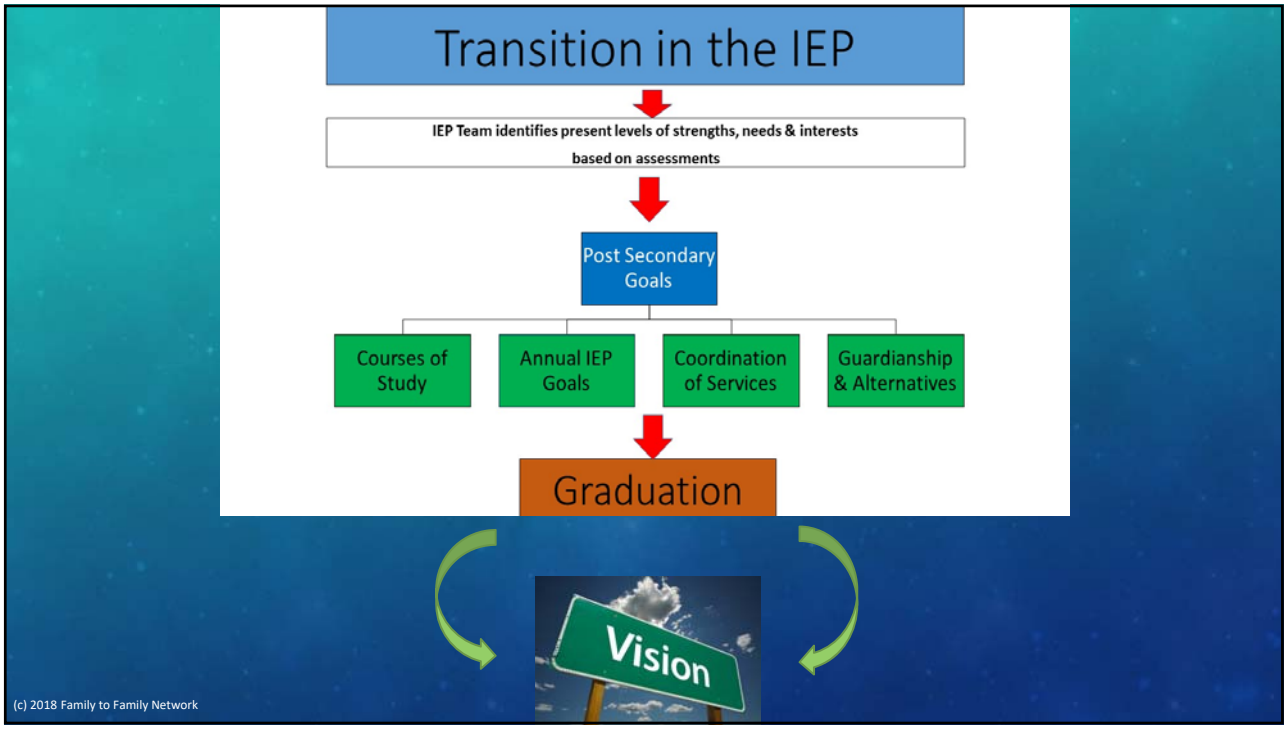
HOW CAN WE TURN THOSE FEARS INTO GOALS OR PART OF THE TRANSITION PLAN WITHIN THE IEP?



(c) 2019 Family to Family Network

REACHING YOUR GOALS = TEAM WORK

(c) 2018 Family to Family Network



QUESTIONS???

WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

THANK YOU!!
Mary Jane Williams
Family to Family Network
info@familytofamilynetwork.org
713-466-6304