

# Promise Newsletter February 2019

## Reyna's Story

Meet Reyna. She's resilient, strong, and knows how to advocate for herself. Reyna struggled with a lot of trauma and anger issues throughout her life. She was feeling stuck in the system and starting to age out of foster care when she found Wisconsin Promise. With support from Promise including trauma-informed care, which is the center of Wisconsin First Lady Tonette Walker's Fostering Futures initiative, Reyna has begun to harness her independence. She's a youth with Promise, with plans to change the world.

[YouTube Video](#)

## Critical Window Podcast: The Impact of Trauma on Student Learning

This 29 minute podcast from Critical Window invited Michael Lamb, executive director of the Washington, DC office of Turnaround for Children where he talks about how students experience trauma, the impact it has on mental health and learning, and what educators can do to create an environment that effectively supports students affected by trauma.

[Learn more and listen to the podcast.](#)

## What's Next?

Get started planning for your future! Here are some things you can do at each age to help you prepare for becoming an adult.

[Action Steps](#)

Start mapping your future! If you are a teen who has a disability, you have choices and things to do to prepare for life after high school. This training will help you find out who you are and what you're good at.

[Explore Your Options](#)

## Promise Lessons Learned

Wisconsin Promise ended September 2018 and we learned several key lessons along the way.

- It's important for youth with disabilities to have paid work experience while in high school.
- Most Promise youth and families preferred benefits and financial counseling on an ongoing basis instead of receiving all the information at once.
- Youth had higher employment rates when they and their families had higher expectations to what is possible to achieve after high school and who received training about how to access needed resources and services.

[Learn More.](#)

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