# Are You a Transition Professional or Special Educator?

# Have you worked with Youth who have an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability (IDD)?

The Institute for Community Inclusion, Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong (MASS), and Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS) are conducting a study to better understand how special education staff discuss transition planning and transfer-of-rights with students with IDD and their parents.

Although New York does not transfer the special education rights of parents to students at age 18, special education staff may still discuss parents' and students' options with them to prepare for when students become legal adults.



## What are we studying?

We want to know what factors impact how special education staff discuss transition planning and address transfer-of-rights conversations between students and their parents, and how these practices affect parental expectations and student outcomes. The study's goal is to help develop effective strategies that support positive transition outcomes.

We are conducting this study with participants from school districts in New York (NY) and Massachusetts (MA). We will interview "triads," or groups of 3 people separately:

- Students with IDD ages 18-22 from 6 school districts in MA and 6 school districts in NY
- Students' parents
- Special educators/transition professionals who gave the family information about transfer-of-rights, guardianship, and alternatives to guardianship.

IDD is defined as differences that are usually present at birth and that uniquely affect the trajectory of the individual's physical, intellectual, and/or emotional development. Many of these conditions affect multiple body parts or systems.

## Who can participate in this study?

**Special education and transition professionals from MA or NY** who work in schools that follow the Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA). All public and charter schools qualify. Some private schools qualify. During the interview, we will ask you to reflect on transition planning (including alternatives to guardianship, guardianship, transfer of rights) and having transfer-of-rights conversations. We will also interview students and parents you have worked with.

## How can I participate?

To see if you qualify for the study, take the screening survey here or contact Daria Domin at: daria.domin@umb.edu. We will hold all interviews on Zoom. Each interview will last 45-60 minutes. Once we have completed all interviews in the triad, each youth will receive a $25 Amazon gift card.




Visit our website to learn more about this project: **gator.communityinclusion.org**

**Guardianship Alternatives and Transfer-of-Rights**

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNITY INCLUSION, UMASS BOSTON