



Ready, Set, Go

Success for All

An e-Newsletter linking people and resources to support quality practices in the education of all students



The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 2004) mandated districts hold IEP meetings annually for students with disabilities. The intent was to revisit student's educational plan to ensure it continued to meet student's individualized needs and exhibited the student's strengths, interests, needs, and preferences (Sanderson et al., 2020). The IDEA (2004) further mandated students be invited to IEP meetings when transition planning is discussed, which in the state of Virginia must begin by age 14 (VDOE, 2020). Student attendance at IEP meetings has increased over time. Doronkin et al. (2020) noted a national longitudinal study reported 85% of transition-aged youth attended their IEP meetings. However, the desired outcome of student attendance at their IEP meeting is for students to assume a leadership role in their post-secondary planning. Sanderson et al.'s (2020) study of interventions used to increase student participation at IEP meetings revealed, although there was a rise in student IEP meeting attendance, only 10.0% of middle school students and 21.9% of high school students engaged in their IEP transition meetings. Student involvement in IEP development and transition planning is a fundamental element of student-focused planning (Kohler et al., 2016). Cavendish et al. (2017) reported

increased student involvement produces positive outcomes and enhances individuals' self-determination and self-advocacy skills.

Get Ready to use the following tools with students to foster student involvement and increase student's post-secondary outcomes.

- [Whose Future is it Anyway?](#)
- [Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy](#)

Get Set to learn intervention strategies in self-advocacy and self-determination. Infusing self-determination education into school curriculum and opportunities to exercise acquired knowledge and skills leads to growth in self-determination (Mumbardó-Adam et al., 2017). Self-determination skills are crucial to post-secondary success. Use these tools to increase a student's ability to make decisions independently, enhance problem solving SKILLS, establish and attain personal goals, and promote self-awareness (Test et al., 2014).

- [Self-Determination Learning Model of Instruction](#) is used by teachers to assist students with setting goals, making choices and decisions, developing plans to reach goals, and tracking progress toward goals.
- [ME! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy](#) Self-determination skills, such as self-advocacy and self-awareness, have the potential to increase successful secondary and postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. The ME! Lessons consist of ten units developed for the purpose of teaching critical transition knowledge and skills to high school students with disabilities.
- [Choicemaker](#) teaches middle and secondary students the self-determination skills needed to be successful in school and adult life. It consists of three strands: choosing education, vocational, and personal goals, expressing goals via active student involvement in IEP meetings, and taking action to attain IEP goals.

Go acquire additional tools and resources to support your efforts in increasing student participation in IEP meetings, resulting in an increase in post-school outcomes for students with disabilities.

- [The I'm Determined Project](#) focuses on providing direct instruction, models, and opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determined behavior. This project facilitates youth, especially those with disabilities to undertake a measure of control in their lives, helping to set and steer the course rather than remaining the silent passenger.
- [Youth Engagement Rubric](#) to identify the ways your students are engaged, address the challenges associated with getting students involved, and the positive outcome of their involvement.
- [Youth Voice Toolkit](#) The Freechild Institute of Youth Engagement supports young people changing the world. The Youth Voice Toolkit is a tool that can promote youth engagement.

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