HINSDALE TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 86

Special Education Graduation Rates and Transition Services

June 2, 2022

Special Education Services

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a federal law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities.

Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth-2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

Students in Illinois are eligible to receive services through their 22nd birthday if that birthday occurs during the school year.

https://sites.ed.gov/idea/

Transition Plans

The individualized education program (IEP) for each student with a disability is developed in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It must address transition service requirements beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect at age 14 1/2 in the state of Illinois, by the IEP Team, and be updated on an annual basis.

The IEP must include: (1) appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training/education, employment, and independent living skills; and (2) the transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the student with a disability in reaching those goals).

The course of study during high school needs to support the transition plan goals.

Access to D86 Transition Program Services

- Determined by the IEP team during a student's senior year of high school
- Students MUST have met graduation course requirements (24 credits in District 86) in order to be eligible to receive services through the district's Transition Program
- Eligible students walk during the graduation ceremony with peers, but do NOT receive their diploma
- District retains the diploma until the IEP team has determined the student is no longer eligible for transition services
    - Age out of program and/or
    - Achieved transition plan goals

D86 Graduation Rates

- Current state law does not allow the district to report a student as having graduated until they actually take their diploma

- As a result, districts are unable to accurately report the percentage of students who have met the requirements for graduation if an IEP team has determined that the student is eligible for transition services

- Annual practice in District 86 is to report two sets of graduation rates - what is listed on the Illinois Report Card and what more accurately reflects our situation based on the students who have enough credits to graduate, but move on to Transition

D86 Graduation Rates 2021

- 377 students in class of 2021 at Hinsdale South
  - 324 or 86% graduated per ISBE report card
  - 69 of the 377 (18%) had IEPs (all had enough credits to graduate)
    - 45 of the 69 were found eligible for the Transition Program by their IEP team
  - The adjusted 2021 graduation rate for Hinsdale South was 97.5%
- The district has and continues to work to have the legislation changed to accurately reflect graduation rates and not penalize schools for students who are eligible for transition services following high school

D86 Transition Program

- The Transition and Bridge Programs have grown significantly over the last six years due to the wide range of program offerings to meet identified student's needs:
  - Beginning of the 2013- 2014 SY: 24 students enrolled
  - Beginning of the 2021- 2022 SY: 115 students enrolled
- 45 young adults are currently competitively employed
- At the end of the 21-22 SY, we made 39 outcomes from the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS), which requires a student working for a minimum of 60 days and 240 work hours; we had one in 2014, which was our first year with DRS
- We have more than 50 community business partners, and added 10 new locations this school year, that provide young adults with vocational training opportunities within our community

D86 Transition Program- Bridge (COD)

- Students within our Bridge program are collectively enrolled in more than 100 different classes (e.g., nursing, culinary arts, auto technician and human services) that are helping them learn about and earn a degree or certificate in their chosen career field
- The college persistence rate for the 21-22 SY for students who are in or who have exited our Bridge program is 90%.
- The average persistence rate for our Bridge students over the six years of the program's existence is 82.5%.
    - Persistence rate is measured by the percentage of students who return to college at any institution for their second year.
    - College of DuPage persistence rate for all general education part-time students on their campus is 51%.
    - During the past three years, students from the Bridge program have been accepted by, attended or are in the process of transferring to a variety of four-year universities, including the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Southern Illinois University, the University of Illinois Chicago, Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University and the University of New Mexico as well as a graduate who is now serving overseas in the U.S. Navy.
- The Bridge program has received an SEL in Action Award from the Novo Foundation each of the past five years, and has been able to acquire more than $30,000 to help fund peer leadership activities

D86 Transition Program

- Annual Business Partnership Breakfast: Here is the link for the breakfast video
- References:
  - Click here to learn more about the Transition Program and the Bridge Program
  - National Longitudinal Transition Study 2: https://ies.ed.gov/ncser/pubs/20113005/pdf/20113005.pdf
  - National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: https://transitionta.org/
  - Transition Coalition, University of Kansas: https://transitioncoalition.org/
  - US News and World Report: https://www.usnews.com/education/community-colleges



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HINSDALE TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Defining excellence.