



Transition Improvement Grant

TIG Times

www.WiTIG.org

TIG Highlights of 2014-2015

Contributed by: Pam Jenson, TIG Project Coordinator

Special points of Interest:

- [Transition Collaboration Network \(TCN \) Meeting October 28, 2015 Registration](#)
- [2015 Wisconsin Statewide Transition Academy Registration](#)
- [2015-16 PTP: Tips, Reminders, and What's New!](#)

The mission of the Transition Improvement Grant is to provide professional development to educators, youth, families and transition partners to ensure every child graduates, college and career ready! TIG carried out its mission this year with the hard work of the TIG Staff, educators, youth, families, and all our transition partners.

TIG staff provided PTP technical assistance on a monthly basis to all Wisconsin schools. With the hard work of TIG and school district staff, Wisconsin remains one of the leading states in PTP compliance maintaining a 99.6% compliance rate. TIG also provided 180 professional development opportunities throughout the year through webinars, face to face trainings and even presenting to national partners in transition on Wisconsin's PTP online application and the amazing response rates we receive from former students. They know Wisconsin has it going on!

TIG Events

Join the Transition Improvement Team as we bring the 3rd year of TIG Events. Last year the Transition Academy increased participation by 110 participants. At the request of our participants, we will host a day and a half academy this year offering college credit, CRC credit, and CEU's to our participants. Join us for the Academy on October 29th and 30th, 2015 at the Wilderness Glacier Canyon Conference Center. Our Transition Collaboration Network (TCN) meeting attendance has doubled and we will again be offering 3 TCN meetings this year, beginning with our October evening meeting the night before the Transition Academy on October 28th, 2015. We hope to see even more participants this year!

The Transition Improvement Grant will also be celebrating its 3rd CCoT Retreat on April 26th, 2016 at the Wilderness Glacier Canyon Conference Center. TIG hosted the first CCoT Retreat in 2014 with 97 participants. In just one year, the CCoT Retreat increased to 222 participants with 65 counties participating in the event. TIG currently has provided technical assistance and/or start up support to all county communities on transition in Wisconsin with 68 of 72 functioning. Great work and collaboration among the counties' partners. If you would like more information on becoming a member of your local CCoT, please contact a TIG Regional Coordinator or visit our website for more details.

Stipend Schools

As a Transition Improvement Staff, we served 23 schools in developing a Transition Improvement Plan (TIP) to increase post school outcomes for students with disabilities. Out of the 23 schools, 5 schools were provided technical assistance through the Community Based Integrated Employment project reducing the number of students targeted to attend sheltered employment. The remaining 18 school districts created transition teams and developed a Transition Improvement Plan (TIP) to increase transition planning in their district. To learn more about creating a TIP for your classroom, school or district, contact your TIG Regional Coordinator.

Post School Outcome (PSO) Surveys

Through the self-assessment cycle, districts are required to participate in PSO surveys. We are proud to announce that in 2013-2014, 13 dis-



tricts decided to conduct their own PSO surveys in a non-monitoring year. In the 2014-2015 school year, we increased to 37 school districts conducting their own surveys in a non-monitoring year. Districts are seeing the value in having this data to improve their transition planning while students are in school to increase their post school outcomes for the students they serve. Each survey takes approximately 8-10 minutes and provides amazing information to school districts. The districts seeing the value to conducting the survey is very exciting as it will provide the TIG grant professional development focus. If you are interested in conducting your own surveys in a non-monitoring year, contact TIG today.

What PSO Data Provides

In 2013 we had 27% of youth not meeting the reporting criteria for Indicator 14. In 2014, this percentage decreased 5%, to 22%, which is outside the margin of error and indicates something positive is happening to positively influence post school outcomes. Youth with EBD had some of the greatest gains, and has been an area of focus within the transition project. Employment and technical colleges had gains, 2-year colleges maintained participation, and 4-year colleges had a decrease in participation. Assist in increasing these numbers today.

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Community Based Integrated Employment Training Series: Increasing Employment Outcomes for Youth with Disabilities

Contributed by: Kathy Tuttle and Brenda Swoboda, TIG Northern and Western Regional Coordinators

Are you looking for some exciting professional development on how to increase youth employment for students with disabilities? Stay tuned for more information on a 5 session, in-person series to be held in Northwestern Wisconsin from October 2015 through April 2016. Participants will have the opportunity to earn up to 3 credits at \$140 per credit. This professional development opportunity is FREE to attend but you must attend all sessions to receive credit. Session topics will include: Effective Transition Planning Using the Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) and Summary of Performance

(SoP), Transition Assessment(s) for Employment, Creating Purposeful and Successful Work Experiences, Local Agency and Employment Support Networks, and Community Engagement to Increase Employment Outcomes. Additional details to follow in mid-September. Feel free to contact Kathy Tuttle at kathyt@witig.org or 608-844-0398 or Brenda Swoboda at brendas@witig.org or 608-786-4841 with specific questions. Sessions are open to educators, families, agency members, college students, and anyone interested in increasing employment outcomes for youth with disabilities in your local community.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
-Margaret Mead

2015 Post School Survey is Underway

Contributed by: Jenny Jacobs, Post School Outcomes Outreach

The Wisconsin Post School Outcomes (PSO) Survey for 2015 began in June and is scheduled to wrap up by the end of September. The PSO survey utilizes a telephone interview process to find out what former students who had IEPs in place when they left school are doing one year after exiting high school. The areas that are assessed include: independent living, participation in postsecondary education or training, and employment. During this survey year, 55 of the 78 districts in self-assessment during 2014-2015 elected to have district staff trained to call their own former students. Twenty-one districts elected to have St. Norbert College's Strategic Research Institute contact former students on behalf of the school district. More significantly an additional 24 districts elected to participate in the survey in a non-self-assessment year.

Trained teachers calling former students has had a significant impact on the response rates of their districts which in turn has increased the statewide response rate. In 2010 the survey had a 29% response rate which increased to 31.4% in 2011 and 32.8%

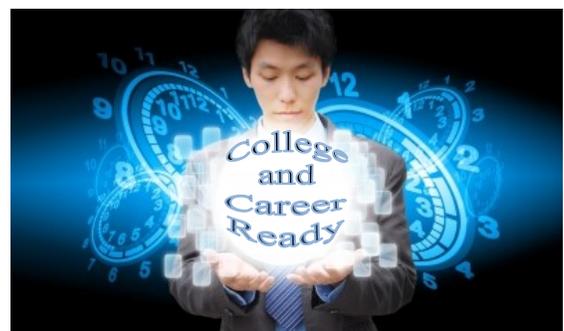
in 2012. In 2013 a few districts piloted having teachers trained to conduct the survey and the response rate jumped to 40.4% that year. Almost half of districts contacted their own former students in 2014 resulting in a 53.5% response rate. Former students are more likely to respond to the survey when it is someone they know calling them. Districts also increase response rates by notifying their students before the students exit their district about the upcoming survey. Districts are also encouraged to mail letters to their former students a few weeks before the phone calls are to be made notifying the former students of the purpose of the survey and who will be calling. As the 2015 survey year wraps up, we are hoping for an even higher response rate statewide compared to 2014. If your district is interested in participating in the 2016 Post School Outcomes survey in a non-monitoring year, please contact Jenny Jacobs at jennyj@witig.org. To find out more information about the PSO Survey, visit our website at www.WiPSO.org.



Correction to the April Newsletter

The article *Transition At Its Finest* was contributed by Jane Ahl, Employment Training Specialist with the School to Work Transition Program at Milwaukee Public Schools.

Thank you Jane, for your contribution to our newsletter.





Wisconsin Technical College System—Disability Services and Creative Programming Updates

Contributed by: Brian Kenney, TIG Southern Regional Coordinator

The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) consistently strives to provide excellent services and programs for students with disabilities. In an interview with Tom Heffron, Education Director - Disability, Diversity & Financial Aid, I collected updates and information on WTCS major areas of focus and top priorities for 2015-2016.

Major Areas of Focus

The WTCS is serving more students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and continue to work collaboratively with partners and stakeholders to improve services and programs for this growing population of students. The WTCS has created a user friendly guide to assist students and families in transitioning from secondary to postsecondary - Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Quick Guide. <http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/wtcsinternal/cmspages/getdocumentfile.aspx?nodeguid=9c7b569c-c20b-4396-8ebd-f77d989edb3d>

Growing populations of students with various mental health needs are attending WTCS campuses throughout Wisconsin. To provide appropriate supports and services, it is crucial they have proper supporting documentation - medical records, reports and testing results / DSM diagnosis of mental health impairment(s). The key to services for students with mental health related needs is they must be accompanied by proper supporting documents. Below is a helpful guide to better understand the rights under American with Disabilities Act (ADA). <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/ada.pdf>

Another growing focus area to the WTCS campuses is students with multiple disabilities. To properly serve the student's needs, it is crucial to engage in early conversations with key contacts in disability services at any of the 16 WTCS campuses. The WTCS has a very comprehensive and user friendly website dedicated to providing details about services for students with disabilities. <http://mywtcs.wtcsystem.edu/student-success/student-services/disability-services>

Another great resource for information is the Wisconsin Postsecondary Guide to Disability Documentation - [https://www.wisconsin.edu/disability-resources/download/disability_documentation\(2\).pdf](https://www.wisconsin.edu/disability-resources/download/disability_documentation(2).pdf)

Top Priorities for 2015-2016

Dual enrollment and contractual agreements are a high priority for this school year. More and more high schools are contracting with WTCS campuses to allow

students access to college credits while still in high school. It is important to work closely with disability services key contacts at the WTCS campuses to ensure that accommodations are approved in advance. This means high school Special Education staff provide supporting documentation to WTCS for them to determine the accommodations the student will receive at a college level (based on ADA guidelines). The IEP is considered a tool/resource but not a deciding factor in the approval of any accommodations. Five Points to Keep In Mind with High School Contracting Arrangements/Dual Enrollment for Students with Disabilities – <file:///C:/Users/owner/Downloads/getdocumentfile.pdf>

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is an opportunity the WTCS is investigating. This method is a way to award individuals with a “prior learning” type of credit. There is a WTCS Summit scheduled in Madison for September 14 and 15, 2015, to continue the conversation, explore ideas and discuss a process that would need to be in place to offer CPLs. More information can be found by visiting this website - <http://www.wtcsystem.edu/about-us/events-calendar/wtcs-credit-for-prior-learning-summit>

The WTCS would like to expand programming opportunities for students with significant disabilities and allow more inclusive community based opportunities for students to engage in college coursework. More details can be found by visiting the Think College Wisconsin website - <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/thinkcollege/>





Wisconsin County Communities on Transition: Ready to Make a Difference for the 2015-16 School Year

Contributed by: Kathy Tuttle, TIG Northern Regional Coordinator

Each of the 72 counties in Wisconsin has an active or emerging CCoT. They rely on school districts, agencies, parents and students to build positive outcomes in employment and postsecondary education for youth with disabilities.

This collaboration is important because: Recent changes to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), make interagency collaboration a top priority. WIOA includes a strong emphasis on transition services for youth with disabilities.

Effective transition requires resources and expertise of several agencies and professional disciplines; it is critical that agencies are present in the transition process as early as possible" (Noyes & Sax, 2004)

Tips for the fall:

- Have your CCoT use the Essential Elements Checklist to start the year. http://witig.org/wstidata/resources/checklist-4_1430324745.pdf
- Use the CCoT Guide as a resource to meet goals. http://witig.org/wstidata/resources/CCoT_Guide_03_2014b.pdf
- Use Livebinders for CCoT resources and information: An example: Sheboygon County <http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1598441>
- Enter CCoT Meetings and Events and Resources on the WiTig Site. <http://www.witig.org/suggest-event.html>
- Schools—Is your District Represented? Share this resource: http://www.witig.org/wstidata/resources/ccot-for-admin-2015-final_1440519814.pdf



Transition Tips: 5 Steps to Write a Powerful Summary of Performance

Article written by Phillip Barnes at LRP Publications

This article describes 5 steps to writing a powerful Summary of Performance.

1. Go beyond “blanket statements” of functional, academic performance.
2. Include student’s strengths, supports.
3. Provide Summary of Performance to students with alternate diplomas.
4. Use Summary of Performance to satisfy Indicator 14.
5. Garner input from students, parents.

To read the full article click [here](#).

Visit our website at:

www.WiTIG.org



For information, e-mail info@witig.org or call (262) 473-1446

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