

College and Career Ready!



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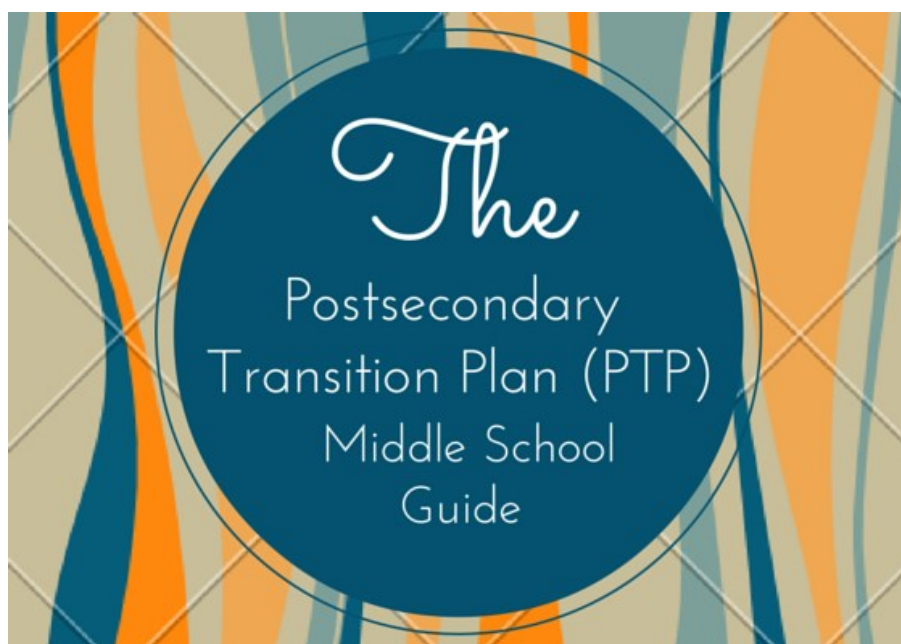
Setting Middle School Students Up for Graduation Success!

Did you know a student's risk of dropping out of high school can be tracked as early as 6th grade?

Dropping out is a process and not an event. There are many high leverage practices teachers can implement to set students up for success as early as middle school!

See the back side for practical tips and further information!

It Starts with YOU: Creating a Purposeful Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) for Middle School Students



"I have no idea what I want to do after high school!." Have you heard this before? This resource is designed specifically for middle school teachers to begin the transition process discussion. Walking students and parents through transition planning and thinking about life after high school, while attending middle school, can be overwhelming.

You are usually the first person to start the discussion on transition planning and set the stage for family and student engagement. You have the chance to make the **biggest impact** on their life after high school!

*"I cannot emphasize enough the importance of a good teacher."
Temple Grandin*

Interested in assessing your classroom transition practices? Contact your Regional TIG Coordinator today to learn more about the Transition Improvement Plan!

Did you know???

Compliant IEPs are more effective at preparing students for postsecondary education and training through transition assessment, strengths-based planning, interagency collaboration, and self-determination strategies. Gaumer-Erickson et al., 2013

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Resources and Tips for Creating a Top Notch Middle School PTP

Engagement in Transition Planning

- Open the PTP Application during your meetings to encourage involvement from all parties.
- Get to know about and use the “Learn More” buttons in the PTP for a wealth of resources
- Encourage students and families to complete the [WI Transition APP](#) and share their report with you.
- Engage families in the discussion on transition EARLY! Host a transition planning event for families and school staff. Invite local agencies that can support youth with disabilities and their families through the transition planning process. [Parent/Youth Guide to the PTP](#)

Age Appropriate Transition Assessments

- Support participation in the [ACP](#) process for your students. Gather learning opportunities and assessments to inform the PTP.
- Use a variety of formal and informal age appropriate transition assessments that will help create a plan based on the preferences, interests, needs, and strengths of the student. Assessments can be completed by students, family members, outside agencies, and school staff in a timely manner prior to the IEP meeting. [Transition Assessment Live Binder](#)
- Include date, type of transition assessment(s) given, and a summary of the results in the additional information text box.

Education/Training Goal

- Based on the results of the transition assessment, identify the type of education or training the student would need to pursue AFTER high school to meet their employment goal.
- Based on the postsecondary goal, begin the discussion early about accommodations verses modifications and what assistive technology is required for equitable access to the curriculum.

Employment Goal

- Ask ALL students “What type of work would you like to do?” verses “Would you like to work?”
- Encourage your students to review their ACP and Assessments to help identify their top choices for careers. This is a great way to help identify an employment goal and allows students to make informed career choices.
- Engage students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities and work experiences (i.e. classroom business, volunteerism, soft skills instruction). Research supports a direct correlation to increased graduation rates and postschool outcome success.

Independent Living Goal

- Identify areas students may need support in for the adult world. For example, social communication, self-advocacy, organization, and time management.
- If you question if an Independent Living Goal is appropriate, think about ways to assess if a student would benefit from an Independent Living Goal. [Determining the Need for an Independent Living Goal](#) OR [Developing Meaningful IL Goals](#)

Transition Services and Self-Advocacy

- Encourage student involvement and attendance at the IEP meeting through the College and Career Self Directed IEP Tool and [I'm Determined Template for Student-Led IEP](#)
- Review [Pre Employment Transition Services](#) with students and families to identify a team approach.
- Complete an overview of the [Self-Advocacy Suite in Wisconsin](#) to find a fit for your students and classroom.
- Invite a high school representative to the 8th grade transition IEP meeting. This educator or school counselor can help identify transition services for the 9th grade year.

Outside Agencies

- Consider any outside agencies that a student may need now or in the future. [Entire Opening Doors Series](#)

Course of Study

- Encourage students to participate in all school and community opportunities to explore possible careers.
- Engage school counselors in the Course of Study discussion. Creating a multi-year plan in the PTP is effective practice.

Dropout Prevention and Increasing Graduation Rates

Across the United States, almost 7,000 high school students drop out of school each day.

- Watch the [Frontline Support Group Video-Middle School Moment](#)
- Review the [Dropout Early Warning System \(DEWS\)](#) from the Department of Public Instruction. How to access DEWS [handout](#).

Click on the icons below to view a sample best practice middle school PTP:

