



Arkansas Transition Services Newsletter

Spring 2018

Transition Parent Nights

by Paul Johnston

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Have you had a hard time trying to get Transition information out to parents? Do you have parents with questions that you can't always get face to face time to answer them?

Well maybe it is time to consider having a Transition Parent Night! You can have them once a year or multiple times a year with different subjects. Here are a couple of examples.

Gravette had their first Transition Parent Night and are looking at this being a yearly event. It was mostly for parents of students in a Self-Contained setting. They focused on Post School Opportunities for Students. A representative from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) presented, a local Community Resource Provider (CRP) presented, and the area Transition Consultant presented. Gravette had about 30 parents show for the evening and even fed

them with some good BBQ. The parents asked good questions and prompted some good discussion.

Greenwood has quarterly Parent Nights with different Transition areas highlighted. They have been doing this for a few years now. Quarterly evenings have focused on Medical Transition, Guardianship, College-Financial Aid and Disability Issues, ARS and Medicaid Waiver, and Benefits Counseling. The subjects rotate and input on subjects is always taken on specific areas of interest to parents. Attendance varies but good questions and good discussion always happens. And light snacks help the evenings along.

If this is something you are interested in, contact your Transition Consultant and they can help you set up a Transition Parent Night.

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Summer Trainings

*Be sure to register
through your coop!*

Evidence-Based Practices for Post-School Success (1 day)

Arch Ford Coop—June 26
DeQueen/Mena Coop—June 26
Southeast Coop—June 26
Dawson Coop—June 27
South Central Coop—June 28
Wilbur Mills Coop—June 28
Arkansas River Coop—July 11
Northcentral Coop— July 11
OUR Coop—July 11
Crowley's Ridge Coop—July 12
Guy Fenter Coop—July 13
Northeast Coop—July 17
Northwest Coop—July 17
Great Rivers Coop—July 25
Southwest Coop—July 25

Transition Toolkit Training (1 day)

NLR School Dist.—June 5
Arch Ford Coop—June 19
PCSSD—June 19
Dawson Coop—June 21
Northcentral Coop—June 25
Southeast Coop—June 25
DeQueen/Mena Coop—June 25
South Central Coop—June 27
Wilbur Mills Coop—July 9
Arkansas River Coop—July 10
Crowley's Ridge—July 10
OUR Coop—July 10
Guy Fenter Coop—July 12
Northeast Coop—July 16
Northwest Coop—July 16
Great Rivers Coop—July 24
Southwest Coop—July 24

ATS Summer Trainings

Transition Toolkit Training (all day training)

This workshop will review the required components of transition and how the Indicator 13 checklist can help in meeting those requirements. A new rubric developed by Arkansas Transition Services that can help districts understand the components of the transition plan and I-13 checklist and their level of compliance will be shared in a hands-on activity. The second part of the workshop will focus more on assessment tools, resources, and how to apply those to an actual transition plan for your student. Participants will actively learn and walk away with valuable resources.

Evidence-based Practices for Post-School Success (all day training)

There are many factors that contribute to a student's success once they leave high school. This workshop will present those predictors and provide a tool for participants to assess if those predictors are offered in their school (or how it might be possible to offer them). The presenter will share evidence-based practices in a variety of areas that correlate with those predictors and that attendees can use when they go back to the classroom. Sample videos of some practices will be shown. Attendees are strongly encouraged to bring a team of two or more for more effective use of tools within the training.

Upcoming Events

Freshman Fifteen (June 12 at University of Central Arkansas)

A one-day introduction to college life for students with disabilities and their parent, guardian or teacher – This program will touch on fifteen important topics to consider if you are thinking about going to college. It will prepare high school freshmen to attend College Bound Arkansas.

College Bound Arkansas (June 13-15 at University of Central Arkansas)

A Program for Students with Disabilities interested in making the transition to College – CBA will increase student's knowledge of accommodations, assistive technologies, leadership skills, and other exciting aspects of college life. The program is open to entering high school juniors, seniors and entering college freshmen. Parents and professionals are welcome to attend as well!

Register for CBA or Freshman Fifteen here:

<http://www.arkansastransition.com/index.php/component/content/article?id=74>

AITP Summer Agency Connections (July 23 at Crowne Plaza Little Rock)

An important meeting and time to gather information that is critical to students' post-school success – Several agencies, both big and small, will be on hand to present information on services and eligibility requirements and talk one on one with those in attendance. Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear about transition programs involving agency collaboration in the districts. Five representatives from districts are invited.

Register for Summer Connections here:

http://www.arkansastransition.com/index.php?option=com_rsform&formId=20

Arkansas Transition Summit

November 5-6, 2018

Embassy Suites Northwest AR

Registration will be available
on our website in May!

www.arkansastransition.com

Start getting your local transition team
together now and make plans to attend!!

District Spotlight

Bulldog Bistro & Garden

Special education students and their teachers from Greenwood Junior High had the opportunity to showcase their school-based business, The Bulldog Bistro & Garden, at a local event where they prepared and served lunch for community leaders and business owners who are part of an organization called Focus on Greenwood. This event allowed the students and teachers to not only promote their school business, but also to provide members of FOG with information regarding the value of transition in our schools and community.



Each newsletter we will alternate putting the spotlight on an exceptional district or an exceptional student in transition. If you would like to submit one of these, please let us know!

Our next newsletter deadline is July 27.

Quiet on the Set

by Bonnie Boaz

It's hard to believe next week we will hear Joey Travolta say those words again to get the attention of all the film camp attendees! April 23-27, 2018, are the dates for the 2018 Short Film Camp. This event was amazing last year and we know this year will be no different. Brought to you by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services in collaboration with Arkansas Transition Services, and instruction provided by the Inclusion Films crew, we are ready to host fifty students for a week long camp at Northwest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Last year students participated on three different teams to make a short film as part of the "Bizarre Zone" theme film camp. It was quite a treat to watch these students work so hard and have so much fun at the same time—their work ethic was amazing and their social skills grew from barely having any to initiating conversations with adults and making future plans to keep in touch with their new friends as they departed the camp. The camp was so much more than learning to make a short film. It was about learning to work with people, to work some long days, to do some tough jobs, to use skills that were once thought to be non-existent for the individual and to realize that there is so much more to life than one can imagine.

It's hard to imagine an opportunity like this as a junior or senior in high school: working with celebrity experts in a dream field for the chance to actually make it in that field. Testimonies from students revealed their delight in working, learning, having fun, and having a difficult time telling the difference! "I loved my experience at film camp! The confidence that everyone had in me was extremely reassuring." Another student confirmed his dream, "This experience helped me decide how much I really want to sing, do musicals and go into the acting/movie business. It gives me great comfort to know that there is something I can do and it means so much to me." This camp brought meaning to their work and to their learning, and although not all of them will go into the film industry, they all had an opportunity to work in for a week. The students came back together in October to see the premiere of their films and all the hard work that went into the films at a Red Carpet Event at NWACC. It was a night not to be forgotten. An opportunity they had never imagined. Opportunity is what it all boils down to. We must be the ones who continue to provide them opportunities of all kinds!

This year another exciting opportunity awaits the Film Camp attendees! A "Sneak Peek" at their films will be shared at the Bentonville Film Festival, Wednesday, May 2, in Bentonville! Cox Communications is sponsoring this event and after party to celebrate the amazing talents of these students and to celebrate the fact that people with disabilities can and must be a part of this industry and all others!

Please check with us soon on details of the Sneak Peek if you are interested in attending the Bentonville Film Festival!

We hope you will consider your students attending the Film Camp in the future!

Teach Them All / Transition Them All

by Lisa Washington

Agencies from four counties of the State converged on the campus at Glen Rose on afternoon of February 15, 2018 to participate in the annual Transition Fair organized by Dottie Lobbs and the support of Catherine Acosta (Special Education Director) and her fellow Speducators. Mrs. Lobbs and the Special Services Department not only had a record number of agency participants (13 at last count) but an impressive number of parent/student turn-out as well. By the end of the night, parents, teachers and agencies were scheduling future dates and following-ups to reconnect and continue discussing how their respective services could become a more integral part of the transition process to better serve the youth and families and have a more positive, lasting impact in the community.



TRANSITION FAIR 2018

Attention: All Students &
Parents/Guardians
February 15 2018
2:30 pm to 7:00pm
Glen Rose School District
Cafeteria

Teach Them All



Transition Them All

Education, Employment, Community, Health, Family

The Transition Fair provides opportunities for parents, students and teachers to speak with agencies and service providers to help “Transition for the Future”.

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OWL Updates

by Bonnie Boaz

If you are in a district that does not currently have an OWL program, you have probably already seen the new OWL application. There was a lot of participation in the revisions of the application to make it easier to complete and to get the information needed to determine if the district has included everything needed in the work-based learning program. The application is due May 1, 2018, and districts will be notified if their application has been accepted on or before May 11, 2018. Those districts that currently have an OWL program will not need to complete a new application, but will need to sign a continuation agreement with Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. If this applies to your district you will receive that from ARS in the near future.

Because we had several requests last year to provide informational sessions on what OWL is before a district completed an application, we offered those as requested in various regions. These meetings were presented by Arkansas Transition Services and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services to team members in the districts and were meant to help the district decide if the OWL program will be a good fit in their district.

Once district applications have been reviewed and accepted, Arkansas Transition Services and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will offer Transition Class/OWL Trainings, which will help those districts, build their programs in their schools. We hope to hold two trainings this summer so districts can be prepared to implement their programs in the fall. We are currently working on an OWL manual that will be distributed to all districts attending the OWL training. If the applying school has not had a Transition Toolkit Training or a Transition Class Training, Arkansas Transition Services will work with the district to make sure those trainings are received as the trainings form a foundation on which to build the transition program. Training dates will be announced soon!

We will do our best to provide you with what you need to have a successful OWL program! You can count on our continued support for your transition programs.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services shares the successes from those districts participating in OWL and we love reading about how students are so excited to go to work and learn new skills that will

help them plan. Teachers are happy to report the progress of their students in this program. It has definitely helped them understand important things like hygiene and budgeting, as well as their ability to work in their community. One OWL teacher reported the effects of participating in the program that one of her students wrote: "Being in the OWL Program has helped me to provide food for my family. It has helped me learn to be responsible and respectful. Being in the OWL Program makes me feel more confident about my graduation. The OWL Program has really expanded my after high school career interest. Being able to make my own money gives me a chance to buy my own needs and wants. Most of all, I like the OWL Program because I'm learning to be more independent." That's what this is all about!