



## **2014-2015 Training Descriptions**

**Transition Toolkit Training:** This training explains the components of the transition goals and services piece in the Arkansas IEP and the importance of using transition assessments to develop transition plans. Participants are provided instruction on how to use the Indicator 13 Checklist (OSEP approved) to complete forms 400-402 of the IEP. Practice in writing post-secondary goals will be provided, as well as information on writing the required Student Profile Summary as it relates to transition. This training will provide mock transition assessment data for an activity that will help teachers write the most effective transition plans for their students.

### **Person-Centered Planning**

Person centered planning is an approach that brings various individuals who are considered stakeholders in the transition process together to help plan for the student's needs and goals during and after high school. A series of maps are created that represent a student's needs, interests, and preferences as well as their strengths, weaknesses and goals for the future. Person-Centered Planning strengthens the planning process by:

- Enhancing the quality of assessment and planning activities for both high school transition services and adult service agencies serving youth with disabilities;
- Fostering positive working relationships between families and professionals;
- Providing a way for educators and case managers from other agencies to better coordinate their services;
- Connecting families to adult service agencies before a student leaves high school;
- Helping ensure that services support the youth's goals and lead to successful outcomes; and
- Helping identify and cultivate natural supports in the community.
- This training has allowed many teachers the opportunity to make meaningful plans for students and will provide the information and tools necessary to use this approach at school. The training takes teachers step by step and provides various tools needed to conduct meetings. Transition Consultants are also available for facilitation of meetings.

### **Transitions Class: Getting Started**

Youth with disabilities sometimes need simple extra supports that can significantly affect their ability to transition successfully. A transitions class is one that is devoted to helping a student achieve post schools goals, focuses on the student's transition plan for its curriculum, and can be as diverse as the needs of its students. . It provides attendees with tools and instructions needed to start a Transitions Class. Attendees will learn what a Transitions Class is, how it benefits the students, and all the needed forms to get one started. Important components such as using assessments, agency linkage, incorporating life skills, and assessing and teaching self-determination skills to students with disabilities are discussed. Attendees will receive a general scope and sequence of the class, as well as suggestions and a preview of possible materials to use in the classroom. Lesson plans will also be presented to help the class run smoothly and accomplish the goal of improving post school outcomes. All attendees will receive a manual packed with resources and tools to help get a class started.

### **Transitions Class: Getting the Job**

This training is part 2 of the Transitions Class trainings. This training focuses on establishing the employment part of a Transitions Class to improve post school outcomes of students in special education. It is for teachers who have been trained in Transitions Class: Getting Started and are planning to begin an employment program. It includes all the important components involved in providing work experience to students. Teachers will leave with pamphlets, power points, and other resources to assist in gaining community and school level support for implementing employment into the Transition Classes. Materials provided include:

- Templates for pamphlets and power points customized for you class
- A CD with Child Labor Laws and student workbook, job shadowing and other great materials

- How to market and promote your program
- Discussion of Assessments (Career)
- Self Determination
- Employment Program Support Tools

### **Yes, Including Parental Participation Is Essential (YIPPIE)**

This training will begin with a helpful tool for the teacher and school to evaluate to what degree parental participation is taking place with their students now. From that tool, you will learn steps you can take to increase parental involvement. The workshop will help you learn ways to engage in strategic planning for parent partnerships. Also included will be suggestions to increase parental participation at annual review conferences.

### **Connecting with the Counselors: A Toolkit for High School Guidance Counselors Working with Students with Disabilities**

This training will provide High School Counselors with the knowledge necessary to effectively assist students with disabilities on post secondary options. Goals of this training are to: Provide an understanding of Transition and IDEA; Increase awareness of types of disabilities and modifications/accommodations; Provide information on the importance of the Counselors Role in the Transition Planning Process; Provide counselors with critical strategies for working with students with disabilities; Increase knowledge of Self-Determination; Increase awareness of Agency services. Important discussions including barriers experienced in working with students with disabilities will occur. Participants will receive a comprehensive "Guidance and Career Counselors' Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options."

**Writing Transition Plans for the Indirect, Co-Taught, and Speech Only Students:** Are you having difficulty gathering information and writing meaningful Transition Plans for this population? We can help! This training offers an overview of age appropriate transition assessments that can be used, as well as examples of post-secondary goals and transition activities that are correlated to the frameworks and the new Common Core Standards specifically for these students. Strategies for finding the time and key steps for assisting the student in transitioning to post-secondary education are also provided.

**Transition Driven Annual Reviews:** Learn strategies and get resources to help your IEP meetings focus on the post-secondary goals of the student with as much input from the student as possible. Using the TDAR approach will drive decisions made at the conference including but not limited to: post-secondary goals; activities that will promote movement towards goals; courses of study; goals in the IEP; accommodations/modifications. Using the TDAR approach will promote a better understanding of the transition plan and its contents for the student, parents and the entire IEP Team. Ultimately students learn self-determination skills and feel a sense of empowerment and motivation to progress toward the post-secondary goals

**ME! Lessons in Self-Advocacy:** Research shows that self-determination is one of the most critical factors in students becoming successful. The ME! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy materials and activities teach students to understand their disability and abilities, rights and responsibilities, and self-advocacy skills. During the lessons each student develops a portfolio containing critical information and documents to help students transition from high school to postsecondary settings. The ME! Lessons include detailed lessons which have been aligned with the Arkansas Frameworks, as well as the new Common Core Standards. These lessons can all be easily modified to fit the needs of individual students. PowerPoint presentations, pencil paper activities, interactive group activities, performance assessments, a research project, and other valuable resources are also included.

**Student Driven Transition Planning (SDTP):** Student-Directed Transition Planning (SDTP) lesson materials systematically teach students to complete their student-directed summary of performance and have been aligned with the Arkansas Frameworks. Using student, family, and educator information, students determine their post-school goals and learn other aspects about themselves. Educators use the eight SDTP lessons to teach their students how to actively participate in their transition-focused IEP meetings. The topics of the eight SDTP lessons include:

- Awareness of Self, Family, Community, and Disability
- Concepts and Terms for Transition Planning
- Vision for Employment
- Vision for Further Education
- Vision for Adult Living
- Course of Study
- Connecting with Adult Supports and Services
- Putting It All Together: The Summary of Performance

SDTP offers a detailed Teacher's Guide with step-by-step instructional suggestions. Tools include PowerPoint presentations, pencil and paper activities and extension activities and valuable resources.

### **Preparing Middle School Students As They Consider Going to College**

In an effort to start thinking about life after high school at an earlier age, ATS has developed a presentation for **middle school teachers** that will include points of consideration for post-secondary options for students in middle school. College can mean different things to different people, so a definition of "college," different post-secondary education environments and what it means to be "college and career ready," will be discussed. As the education settings change, so do the laws; an important comparison of these changes will be presented so teachers can begin preparing students and equipping them with the essential self-determination skills they will need to be successful. Strategies and resources for areas of career exploration, goal-setting and self-determination will also be provided.

Additional trainings in transition are continually in development as Arkansas Transition Services strives to meet the transition training needs of all districts in Arkansas! If you have a specific topic you would like to have a training for, please let your transition consultant know!