

YOUR CHILD CAN THRIVE! YOU ARE THEIR #1 ADVOCATE

A high quality K-12 education program

- Make sure your child is in a learning based program that offers them a robust education. Having a child who is disabled doesn't mean they should be met with low or no expectation to learn.
- Educational and academic programs need to be clear about how they will help your child.

Considerations to make when choosing:

- is safe and equipped with what your child needs
- meets state standards
- has or prepares your child for college, career, and technical education opportunities that are competitive
- community based learning experiences
- appropriate learning environments that fit your child's modality of learning and supports them best with their disability
- offers services and supports from trained and highly qualified professionals
- uses program models that are science and brain based, researched thoroughly, and have proven efficacy
- provides assessments with multiple measures so you get the full scope of your child's learning and outcomes
- options for graduation and exit

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College, Career, & Workforce Development

- Your child with a disability should not be overlooked or excluded in college, career readiness planning.
- Special education students graduate high school in lower numbers than their peers. Preparing each step of the way through elementary, secondary, and post graduate transitions is important. Having a clear and structured path can help prevent any hurdles they could face with option to exit high school and after getting their diplomas.

These considerations can make a difference:

- career assessments to help identify students' school and post-school preferences and interests;
- structured exposure to postsecondary education and other life-long learning opportunities;
- exposure to career opportunities that ultimately lead to a living wage, including information about educational requirements, entry requirements, income and benefits potential, and asset accumulation; and,
- training designed to improve job-seeking skills and work-place basic skills (sometimes called "soft skills").

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College, Career, & Workforce Development continued

- Community partnerships are important on the path to success.
- NCWD/Youth has identified Guideposts for Success based on what research indicates about youth needing to transition to adulthood successfully.
(see resource page for more information)

In order to identify and attain career goals, youth need to be exposed to a range of experiences, including the following:

- opportunities to engage in a range of work-based exploration activities such as site visits and job shadowing;
- multiple on-the-job training experiences (paid or unpaid), including community service, that are specifically linked to the content of a program of study and school credit;
- opportunities to learn and practice their work skills (so-called “soft skills”); and,
- opportunities to learn first-hand about specific occupational skills related to a career pathway.

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College, Career, & Workforce Development continued

In addition, youth with disabilities need to do one or more of the following:

- understand the relationships between benefits planning and career choices;
- learn to communicate their disability related work support and accommodation needs; and,
- learn to find, formally request, and secure appropriate supports and reasonable accommodations in education, training, and employment settings.