



# Partnerships for Transition

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A collaborative venture between the Montana Council on Developmental Disabilities, the University of Montana Rural Institute's Transition Projects and PLUK (Parents Let's Unite for Kids)



Presented By:

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## Goal:

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To support students with developmental disabilities in grades 6-8, their parents, teachers, and community-based service providers to be informed and well-equipped to successfully navigate the transition process. This will lead to increased post-school success for these students.

# DREAMS

## Goals for the Future



Community



Recreation/  
Leisure



Home



Life-Long  
Learning



Work

### Interagency Linkages

Service Agencies,  
Community Services,  
Natural Supports which  
may be able to provide these supports

***What supports will the student  
need to be successful after high  
school?***

### Needed Transition Services

\*Planned activities and steps to get  
from where the student is currently to  
the dreams.

### Course of Study, Transition Service Needs

What skills and experiences do  
they need to gain to prepare them  
for Post School Outcomes?



### Present Level of Performance

What skills does the student have  
currently? Interests? Preferences?



### Identify Post School Outcomes



BY AGE 16



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We will accomplish this through a six-pronged approach that includes:

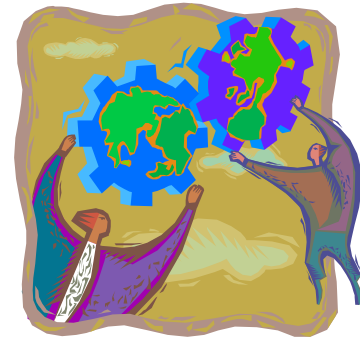
- Skill development (teachers, students, families, service providers, advocates)
- Information dissemination
- Increasing support to families and communities across the state

# PLUK FSS Serve as Transition Resources

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Enhance the capacity of five PLUK Family Support Specialists in the area of transition and employment through:

- On-site training
- Long distance training
- The development of tools to be used in local communities with agencies, families and schools



# Organized Information and Networking Families, schools, agencies, & students.

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Support the first annual Transition Forum in five communities.

- Create a “tool box” for communities to use to host their own interagency transition forums
- Test the tool box in the five implementation communities



# Transition Activities for Middle School

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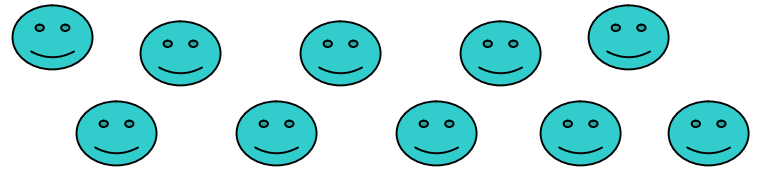
Develop strategies for middle schools to help their students to:

- Engage in Discovery activities
- Participate in early employment experiences
- Benefit from quality, comprehensive transition planning



## Student Activities:

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With ten students with developmental disabilities across five communities, support middle school staff to:

- Begin Discovery to identify strengths, interests, support needs & strategies
- Develop school-based work experiences and/or community-based volunteer opportunities
- Capture the information learned in a "Transition Portfolio"

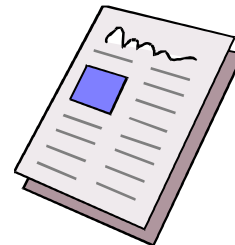
*Sites will be networked through VisionNet for training and information-sharing*

# Dissemination:

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Document and share the successful implementation of these strategies through:

- RI Transition and PLUK Web sites
- Quarterly electronic newsletters
- Articles in PLUK newsletters



# Trainings:

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Disseminate transition information to 15 sites via quarterly teleconferences (accompanied by slide shows) on topics such as:

- Social Security and Work Incentives
- Connecting with the DD System
- Collaborative Funding
- Transition Planning and Work Experience in Middle School



# PLUK Commitments:

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- Identify five Family Support Specialists to participate
- Schedule agenda time during the August 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> PLUK training in Billings for project training and planning
- Sponsor four transition-focused training sessions on VisionNet
- Host four teleconferences in local communities

# PLUK Commitments:

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- Recruit parents, agencies and schools to participate
- Advertise training sessions on the PLUK Web site and in publications
- Provide feedback on RI newsletters and other publications
- Spearhead transition forums in five communities (with assistance from RI staff)

# PLUK Specialists will...

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- Help identify community resources
- Act as resources to schools through networking with agencies, sharing the “tool box,” and assisting with forums
- Know and explain Customized Employment as compared to the “labor market view”
- Mentor families of middle school students to use Discovery and communicate the information to schools and service providers

# Rural Institute Commitments:

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- Provide training and participate in a planning session during the August 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> PLUK training in Billings
- Develop and deliver training for four transition-focused training sessions on VisionNet and four teleconference training sessions for local communities
- Advertise training sessions on the RI Web site and in publications

# Rural Institute Commitments:

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- Develop a Transition Forum “Tool Box”
- Assist PLUK and local individuals with first annual Transition Forums in five communities
- Develop a guide and template for Transition Portfolios
- Mentor community teams through transition-focused activities for ten students across five sites

# Partnerships for Transition...Improving Outcomes for Youth with Developmental Disabilities

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