



Partnerships for Transition


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:

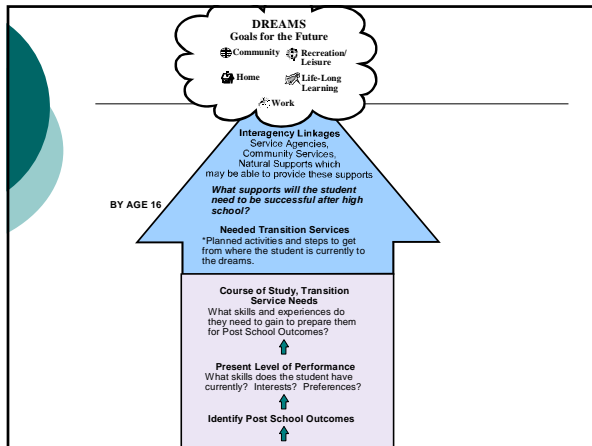
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Goal:

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.




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

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.

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

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:



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:

Document and share the successful implementation of these strategies through:

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



Trainings:

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:



- Identify five Family Support Specialists to participate
- Schedule agenda time during the August 23rd-25th 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: 

- 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...

- 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: 

- Provide training and participate in a planning session during the August 23rd-25th 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:



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

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