

Special Education Parent Group

1/25/18 Meeting Minutes

Welcome and introductions

Guest Speaker, Lindsay Wolf, Department Chair, Special Education, Homestead High School

An Introduction to Transition and Special Education in High School:

- Students and their families go through transitions at different points – to elementary school from First Steps, from elementary to middle school and then “The Big T” of middle school to high school. Though there is a transition from middle school to high school, the services a student needs and the advocacy for them stay the same. The Transition IEP must be in place on the day a student turns 14, so is done when they are 13 years old. It is important to ask questions such as: what will life look like after high school for this student and how can we get there? This question can be asked even in fourth or fifth grade and look ahead to get the student toward independence.
- In our district the IEP meetings include current teachers and the receiving school’s teachers so that knowledge about the student can be shared. Things such as what works well with this student, what barriers may exist and how are they being addressed are discussed. The receiving school’s teachers make observations before the transition and there is a communication and an ongoing dialogue among the district staff. Students often visit the new school before the transition.
- In an IEP the team looks at present levels of performance, sets goals, determines what program supports are needed, and conducts progress monitoring to monitor the effectiveness of instruction and program supports. With the Transition IEP other topics include employment, independent living, and additional training and education options. Students do assessments to determine their strengths and preferences and help connect the dots to their goals. Vocational Rehabilitation and internships may be a part of the IEP.
- In our area there are some programs such as the Erskine Green Training Institute, Achieving Balance in Life through Education (ABLE) and at Huntington University, Bridges at IPFW and options at Ivy Tech. The district offers a free transition fair each year with many vendors present to share information about their programs.

Special Education Director Roxanne May, Legislative Updates:

- Some legislation moving in the legislature currently include: a bill about Dyslexia (Senate Bill 217); continued discussion about the Graduation Pathways (should there be many different diplomas or one diploma that can have specific notations such as academic, vocational, etc.); and what the Certificate of Completion will require going forward such as earning units/credits and doing a capstone project.
- The state of Indiana expanded the age that students can receive special education services under the “developmentally delayed” classification to match the federal eligibility criteria of 3 - 9 years old. It was 3-5 years old in Indiana previously. This change goes into effect 7/1/18.

Coming up:

- 1/26/18 - Fun Friday at Sweetwater Sound, 5:30-7:30 PM, Elementary School students and families.
- Next meeting - **Please note the earlier start time of 12:00 instead of 12:30.**
4/27/18 12:00 – 2:00 PM, “Puberty and Sexual Health” presented by Melissa Dubie, Educational Consultant, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, IU - Bloomington

Thank you for attending.

Next Meeting: 4/27/18, 12:00 – 2:00 PM