



WEBCAST TAKEAWAYS

FAMILY MATTERS: HOW TO INCLUDE FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

SUMMARY

In May's webcast we learned from Joey Ellis of STEP (Support and Training for Exceptional Parents) about different ways to include families and parents in the transition planning process. Involving parents in the transition planning process is key in improving student outcomes. Some of these outcomes include: earning better grades, learning social skills, and having a higher chance of attending postsecondary education. Below are some tips on how to include families:

- Use people first language when describing the student/the student's disability.
- Try to make the meeting environment warm and welcoming by having everyone introduce themselves at the start of the meeting.
- Listen to everyone in the meeting—do not cut people off as they share ideas.
- Try to avoid statements like, "In my 20 years of teaching...". Sometimes using background or experience can alienate family members and leave them feeling like their opinions are not valid or important.
- Keep your word. Follow through on the things you say you will do—this builds the trust that often is lacking on IEP teams

LEARN MORE



<http://www.tnstep.org/news/?id=494>

TRANSITION TO ADULT LIFE GUIDES

STEP, Inc. has put some of the most commonly asked questions about transition on their website. Here are some of the topics covered:

- So Now You're a Freshman: Self-Advocacy on a College Campus
- Everybody Knows My Name in My Community
- Getting Help Making Choices
- How to Build a Great Resume and Have an Awesome Interview