

# Facilitating Postsecondary Success: Strategies to Remove Service Roadblocks for Students with Disabilities

## Challenge 1

### Families do not always understand:

- How to give permission for schools and vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to share information and to invite outside agencies to Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.
- How to apply for services outside school.
- Why it is important to involve other service agencies in the transition process.

## Challenge 2

**School staff do not always know** which students are eligible for and/or have received services from other agencies, such as representatives from the state agency for developmental disabilities, behavioral health.

## Strategy 2

### School staff and other agencies can facilitate better data sharing to help:

- School staff see which services students applied for and received to ensure experiences build on each other and are not repetitive.
- Save time for school and agency staff, students, and families so they can better support students' post-secondary goals.
- Improve federally required outcomes, such as [Indicator 14](#), focused on reporting education and work-related post-school outcomes for students with IEPs.

## Strategy 1

### School staff and other agencies can provide better information to students and families to help:

- Families understand the benefits and navigate the process of giving permission for schools and VR to share information and participate in IEP meetings.
- Families complete applications for certain services.
- Students get connected to appropriate services.

## Learn more:

- REL Mid-Atlantic Infographic: [Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities](#)
- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: [transitionta.org](https://transitionta.org).

## Use evidence-based, research-based, or promising practices<sup>1</sup> to prepare students for college, careers, and active community participation:

1. Collaborate between agencies to provide comprehensive support services.
2. Integrate students into general education classes and career technical education to enhance their readiness.
3. Help students get paid employment or other work experience to build practical skills.
4. Engage families in setting high expectations and supporting students' academic and career goals.
5. Teach students essential life skills and self-advocacy techniques to foster their independence and confidence in navigating post-secondary environments.

<sup>1</sup> Mazzotti, V. L., Rowe, D. A., Kwiatek, S., Voggt, A., Chang, W.H., Fowler, C. H., Poppen, M., Sinclair, J., & Test, D. W. (2021). Secondary Transition Predictors of Postschool Success: An Update to the Research Base. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 44(1), 47-64.

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