

AGE APPROPRIATE TRANSITION ASSESSMENT: A Tool for Enhancing School Completion

Larry Korterling
Korterlinglj@appstate.edu

IMPORTANCE OF SCHOOL COMPLETION

- http://www.brillig.com/debt_clock/
- Employment rate of dropouts is half that of peers
- The average dropout will earn about \$40,000 and \$1.3 million less over their lifetime than peers w/ a high school and a four-year degree, respectively

IMPORTANCE cont'd

- Nearly 80% of all prisoners are dropouts
- A life of crime will cost society nearly \$1 million dollars in prison costs alone
- The school completion for students with SLD approaches, at best, 65%

WHY HELP SCHOOLS TO DO TRANSITION ASSESSMENTS?

- **Efficient** process that is predictive
- Great way to develop **rapport**
- **Students enjoy it**
- Generates **useful and relevant information**
- **Legally required** for Indicator 13 (www.nsttac.org)
- Helps you **understand** someone
- Helps students understand **why** they need to be in school

“AGE APPROPRIATE” TRANSITION ASSESSMENT

- **IEPs* MUST NOW ADDRESS AT LEAST TWO OF THREE POST-SECONDARY OUTCOMES**
(education & training, employment, and independent living)
- **IEP MUST HAVE A ‘COORDINATED SET’ OF TRANSITION-RELATED SERVICES**

Age Appropriate cont'd

- **A STUDENT’S COURSES OF STUDY ALIGNS WITH THEIR POSTSECONDARY GOALS**
- **TRANSITION ASSESSMENT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THIS**

Q and A

?

GETTING ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- **Achievement and Mental Ability** from current psychological report
- **Paper/pencil tests** of interests, personality, career readiness, work adjustment, and aptitude

- **Physical functioning** (observation or tested) for individuals with work tolerance issues
- **Family and student background** with a focus on understanding the family/friend network
- **Job Samplings and Work Site Evaluations**

TRANSITION ASSESSMENT: POSITIVES

- **Efficient** process
- **Fairly predictive**
- Fosters **self-understanding**
- Means for developing **rapport**
- **Non-academic** focus
- The **right instruments** are **reliable and valid**
- **Students love it**

TRANSITION ASSESSMENT: NEGATIVES

- **Snapshot** of reality
- Requires **training and experience**
- Requires a **conceptual understanding** of career development
- Dated norms and suspect statistical properties
- **Diet pills**

CHALLENGES YOU WILL ENCOUNTER WHEN INTERPRETING TEST RESULTS

- Response sets
- Youth's with little world of work knowledge
- Interests are **NOT** stable
- Impact of limited access to role models
- Impact of disability

CHALLENGES, cont'd

- Impact of gender and culture
- Matching results to actual programs
- Self-reported vs. performance measures
- Emerging sources of influence

Q and A

?

CONCEPTUALIZING THE TRANSITION ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- **LEVEL ONE** - for 14 to 16 years of age
- **LEVEL TWO** – as students approach graduation, often in conjunction with an adult service provider
- **PERSON CENTERED PLANNING** – for students with more involved disabilities

SAMPLE LEVEL ONE TESTS

- **BACKGROUND:** General interview about school, interests, work history and family jobs
- **PERSONALITY/PREFERENCE TESTING:** Student Style Questionnaire (Psychological Corporation in San Antonio, TX)
- **INTERESTS:** Self-Directed Search Forms Explorer, E, and R, Career Interest Inventory I and II, Career Decision Making Survey (various vendors)

OTHER TESTS TO CONSIDER

- **GENERAL MEASURE OF READINESS:** Transition Planning Inventory (Pro Ed in Austin, TX)
- **APTITUDES:** special talents you think the student might have (e.g., Differential Aptitude Test, ASVAB)
- **GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT:** Information from current psychological report (e.g., IQ and achievement scores)

FINAL THOUGHTS

- USE ASSESSMENT RESULTS AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR A STUDENT'S HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION
- HELP TEACHERS LINK WHAT WE DO IN SCHOOL TO WHAT STUDENTS WANT TO DO WHEN THEY LEAVE SCHOOL

FINAL THOUGHTS

- BRING ADULT SERVICE PROVIDERS ON BOARD TO HELP WITH A STUDENT'S TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL (information sharing)
- REMEMBER, **THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS MUST BE MULTIFACETED AND ONGOING!**

. . . . QUESTIONS?

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- WWW.NSTTAC.ORG (*sign up for our the NSTTAC Notes and take a look at the Transition Assessment Guide*)
- korteringlj@appstate.edu
- www.onetcenter.org/ (*great resource for learning about careers and jobs*)
