

4. Family Engagement



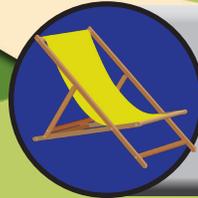
Family Engagement in Transition Planning



Family Information Sharing Activities



Peer to Peer Family Support



Family Respite

4.1 Family Engagement in Transition Planning

What is family engagement in transition planning?

...When you and your family are in charge of the transition process to plan for your life after high school.

4.2 Family Information Sharing Activities

What are family information sharing activities?

...Practices that provide your family with information and resources to make informed decisions as you plan for life after high school.

4.3 Peer to Peer Family Support

What is peer to peer family support?

...Youth and families sharing their experiences and relevant information for future planning through networking, invited speakers, and local task forces.

4.4 Family Respite

What is family respite?

...Support and rest for family members so that they can take a break from the demands of everyday life.

Family Engagement

4.1 Family Engagement in Transition Planning





What is family engagement in transition planning?

...When you and your family are in charge of the transition process to plan for your life after high school.

Ideally, family engagement in transition planning includes...

- Meeting families where they are
- Creating a welcoming and safe space where you and your family are at the center of planning
- Making sure you and your family have a voice
- Listening to you and your family about your dreams, strengths, goals, and needs
- Involving you and your family in developing goals for life after high school

Family engagement in transition planning results in...

- Sharing and understanding information
- A school team that supports you and your family's plans for life after high school
- A respectful, collaborative team that listens to you and your family



"My grandma comes to school and understands my goals. The school team is so happy she is involved, and so am I! She says to me, 'You want to go off to college and you can do it! You'll get a good education. You'll be the first one to graduate from high school and college. We can trust the school to help you finish out your schooling and help you make your own decisions.'"

Transition-age youth

Family Engagement

4.2 Family Information Sharing Activities



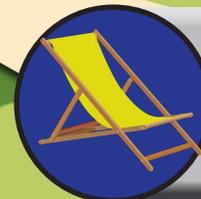
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Family Support



Family
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Family
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What are family information sharing activities?

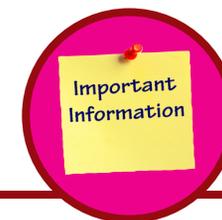
...Practices that provide your family with information and resources to make informed decisions as you plan for life after high school.

Ideally, family information sharing activities...

- Meet families where they are
- Build trusting relationships between families, school, and agency personnel
- Support your family to speak up and advocate for what you need
- Provide information and resources to families to help you make your decisions about life after high school

Family information sharing activities result in...

- Clear and timely information and resources to support your dreams and goals
- Relationships with school and agency personnel where you and your family feel supported in planning for your future



"We're trying to learn some things about the IEP and what a school could offer, what is available vocationally for the next couple years. We've got a long way to go, we need to put some basic skills in place and some basic set of skills for him so that it's easier for him and he can transition."

Family of transition-age youth

Family Engagement

4.3 Peer to Peer Family Support



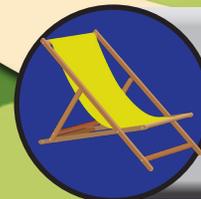
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Peer to Peer
Family
Support



Family
Respite



What is peer to peer family support?

...Youth and families sharing their experiences and relevant information for future planning through networking, invited speakers, and local task forces.

Ideally, peer to peer family support...

- Creates safe, supportive relationships and networks with others that understand you and your family's experiences
- Strengthens you and your voices to be heard in planning for your life after high school
- Educates you and your family about community, educational, employment, and financial resources based upon the experiences of other families and youth

Peer to peer family support results in...

- You and your family being the center of planning for your future
- Information sharing about best practices in planning for your life after high school
- Planning for your future with a better understanding of expectations and resources



"There's strength in numbers and at this point we have seven families in TIP. In Pennsylvania we have these local education task forces, made up of families. I said my best information didn't come from what the law says, but what best practices are and what other parents are doing. So getting that information is important. And you do have to seek it out; it's a job."

Family of transition-age youth

Family Engagement

4.4 Family Respite



Family
Engagement
in Transition
Planning



Family
Information
Sharing
Activities



Peer to Peer
Family Support



**Family
Respite**



What is family respite?

...Support and rest for family members so that they can take a break from the demands of everyday life.

Ideally, family respite...

- Provides a space for your family to communicate their thoughts and feelings

- Meets your family where they are and involves trusted partnerships
- Happens at times and in places that are best for your family
- Is individualized, to meet the needs of your family
- Provides opportunities for families to participate in trainings or support groups
- Does not cost your family money to participate

Family respite includes...

- Safe and supportive care of you and your siblings when your parents/guardians/caregivers are taking a break
- A regular, individualized opportunity to take a break to better meet the needs of your family
- Community supports



"I found a camp called Camp Lee Mar where my son went for seven weeks in the summer, and it's expensive, but I've been able to piece together stuff from the school, and from the county, and from other places. That made a world of difference to him, to get him on his own and he started going when he was 12. It was a nice break for my husband and me, to re-energize."

Family of transition-age youth