

# Adventure Awaits: Guiding Students with Disabilities to Postschool Success

Presented by  
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# Who is in the room?



# What do you know about postsecondary transition?

- Get with a neighbor or few
- Introduce yourself (if needed)
- Come up with a definition of postsecondary transition.
  - If you don't know, guess
  - If you do know, define it in a way that anyone can understand it

# What is Postsecondary Transition?

- Postsecondary transition planning is a process beginning at age 14 in Utah (or earlier if appropriate) designed to help students reach their potential as they transition into adulthood.
- Postsecondary transition is a student-centered process that includes ongoing assessment, services, instruction, experiences, opportunities, and supports designed to elevate students' in-school and post school outcomes.

# Learning Intentions

1. You will learn about the postsecondary transition process for students with disabilities
2. You will learn about predictors of post school success for students with disabilities and their impact on student outcomes
3. You will learn about postsecondary transition resources and services available in Utah

# Learning Intention 1

1. You will learn about the postsecondary transition process for students with disabilities
  - You will articulate the postsecondary transition process for students with disabilities

# Postsecondary Transition Is...

- ✓ A Plan for a meaningful life after high school
- ✓ Discovering a student's strengths, preferences, interests, and needs (SPINs)
- ✓ Goal setting and action steps
- ✓ Learning Self-advocacy/Self-determination skills
- ✓ Change for students and families
- ✓ Career exploration & work experiences
- ✓ Adult living skills
- ✓ Targeted instruction and experiences that support a student's post school goals
- ✓ Connecting students and families with adult services



# What does the research say?

Students with disabilities are far more likely to achieve their aspirations for life after high school if provided the right combination of **opportunities, instruction, services, and supports** [in high school]. (Trainor et. al., 2019)

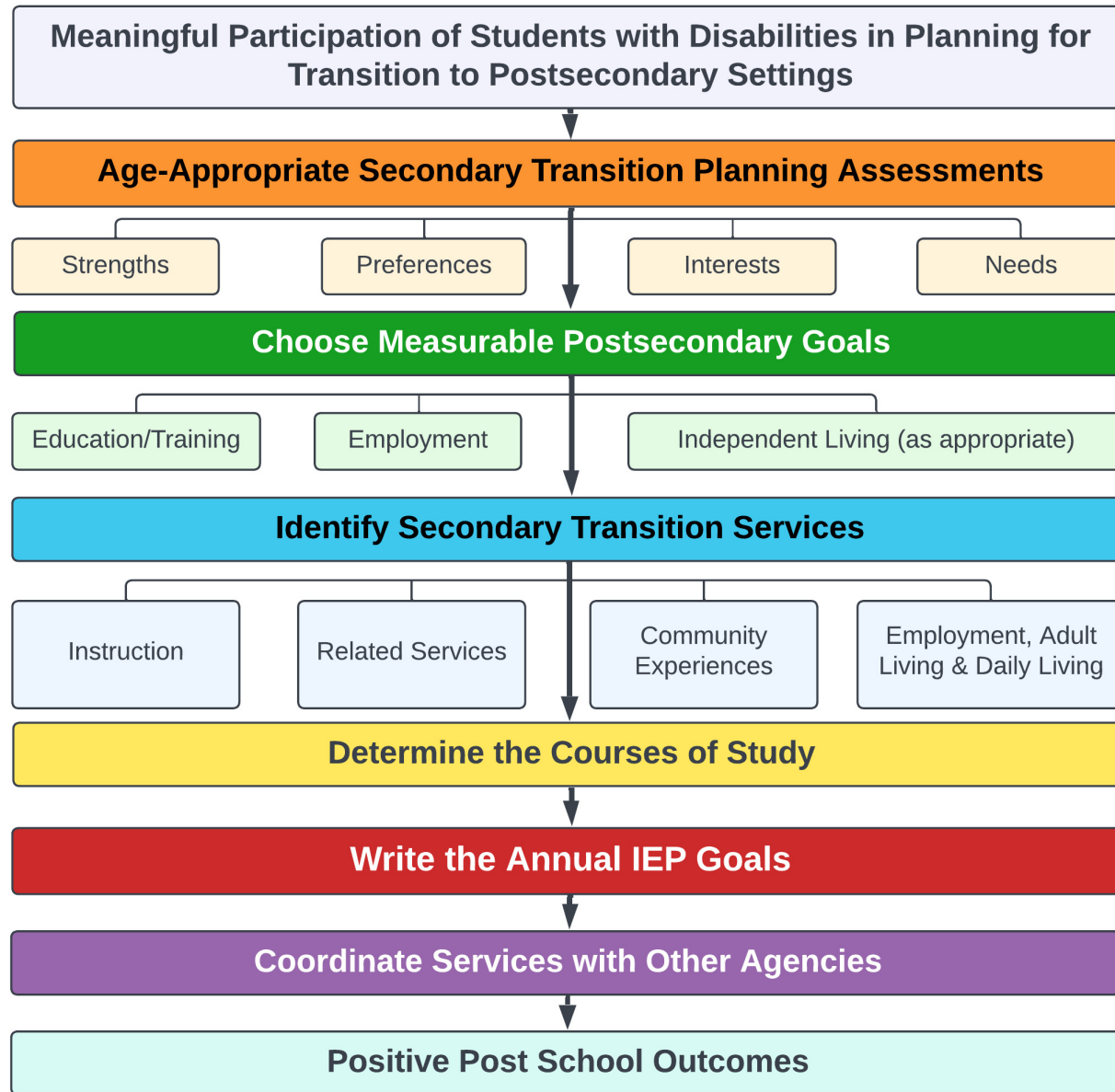
**The Predictors of Postschool Success** (Mazzotti et. al., 2020) are part of that “right combination

# How are Utah SWD Doing after Graduating?

## 2024 Post School Outcomes Data

- **17%** of students with IEPs went to a 2- or 4-year college
- **44 %** are competitively employed
- **11%** are engaged in some other education or training
- **9%** are engaged in some other employment
- **19%** do not meet the criteria for engagement
- **41%** students who **exit between ages 19-22** do not meet the criteria for engagement

## TRANSITION TO POSTSECONDARY SETTINGS FLOW CHART



# Preparing for Transition to Postsecondary Settings Flowchart

Adapted from Johnson, C. E. (2012). Transition Services Flowchart. Center for Change in Transition Services, Seattle University, Seattle, WA

# Learning Intention 2

2. You will learn about predictors of post school success for students with disabilities and their impact on student outcomes
  - You will identify and implement activities that predict positive post school outcomes for students with disabilities



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# What Do We Know?

Research suggests youth with disabilities are less likely to experience positive outcomes compared to peers without disabilities.

**Identifying in-school predictors of postschool success can provide information to design, evaluate, and improve transition programs.**  
(Mazzotti et. al., 2020)

# What are the Predictors of Postschool Success?

In-school experiences (e.g., programs, skill development, and activities) that help prepare students for further education, employment, and independent living after high school.

The predictors increase the likelihood of improved outcomes, but do not guarantee these outcomes.

# Predictors of Post School Success Padlet



# Secondary Transition Predictors of Postschool Success (Mazzotti et. al., 2020)

- Career Awareness
- Career and Technical Education\*\*
- Community Experiences
- Exit exam requirements / High School Diploma Status
- Goal Setting\*
- Inclusion in General Education\*
- *Interagency Collaboration*
- Occupational Courses
- Paid Employment / Work Experiences
- Parent Expectations
- Parental Involvement
- Program of Study
- Psychological Empowerment
- Self-Advocacy / Self-Determination
- *Self-Care / Independent Living Skills*
- Self-Realization
- Social Skills
- Student Support
- Technology Skills
- Transition Program
- Travel Skills
- Work Study
- Youth Autonomy / Decision-Making

\*\* EBP for employment and RBP for education  
\*RBP in all three areas

# Activity

- Review the list of predictors
- Identify experiences from that list that you had as you were transitioning into adulthood
- How might your life have been different if you did not have access to these activities and experiences?

# Competencies for Post-School Success

- Self-advocacy
- Social interactions
- Time management/organization
- Problem solving
- Emotional regulation
- Adult living skills
- Safety and wellness
- Community navigation
- Career development
- Technology skills

# Postsecondary Transition Skills Mapping Tool

## Domain Area: Self-Advocacy

### Pre-K

Pointing to show or Request  
Verbal requesting  
Saying "No" to refuse  
Expressing preferences

### K-5

Making choices  
Knows name, address, phone number  
Communicating wants and needs  
Awareness of own disability  
Asking for help

### 6-8

Knowing when to ask for help when needed  
Declining assistance when appropriate  
Describing own strengths and support needs  
Explaining own disability  
Describing own interests and preferences  
Actively participating in IEP

### 9-12+

Advocating for own needs  
Incorporating own strengths in decision making  
Discussing own disability  
Communicating and using accommodations  
Leading own IEP and postsecondary transition planning

# Resource Padlet



**Padlet** Postsecondary Transition in Utah + 1 • 4d

## Preparing Students with Disabilities for Success in Postsecondary Programs

A skills timeline and resources for practitioners

About & Resources

Utah Programs

Postsecondary Transition Skill Mapping Tool

College Readiness: Assessments

Utah's Portrait of a Graduate

Portrait of Meaningful Inclusion

**Meaningful Inclusion for Students with Disabilities Implementation Guide**

Utah State Board of Education | Technical Assistance Document

PDF

USBE Meaningful Inclusion for Students with Disabilities PRINT (2023)

Predictors of Post School Success

**Predictors of Post-School Success**

Postsecondary/Careers	Education	Employment	Postsecondary
• Career Assessment	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Career Technical Education/Workforce Education	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Community Experiences	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma Status	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Exit Testing	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Student's General Education	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Intergenerational Collaboration	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Supplemental Courses	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Post-Secondary/Work Experience	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based
• Work	Research-based	Research-based	Research-based

PDF

TransitionPredictorsPostSchoolSuccess

FAQs about College Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

utahparentcenter.org

Disability Resource Centers at Institutes of Higher Learning - Utah Parent Center

**UVU Passages Program**

uvu.edu

index

**Weber State University CATT Program**

weber.edu

CATT Peer Mentoring

**Postsecondary Transition Mapping Skills Tool (to download this document, then go to the 3 dots on the right side and select "download attachment")**

DOCX

Transition Skills Mapping Tool

**Wolverines Elevated Readiness Scale**

PDF

Preparing Students with Disabilities for Success in Postsecondary Programs

**Aggies Elevated Educator Questionnaire**

PDF

educator questionnaire

**Aggies Elevated Student Questionnaire**

PDF

student questionnaire

**Turn and Talk:**  
**How can you support  
SWD to improve their  
post school outcomes?**

# How can you help improve student outcomes?

- Hold **high expectations** for students with disabilities
- **Align** the student's transition IEP with their CCR plan and IPE
- Invite a variety of team members to transition IEP meetings for students 14 and older
- Share transition assessment results among relevant team members
- Collaboratively implement needed accommodations and modifications
- Become familiar with **disability resources** such as **Pre-ETS**, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), and **college disability services** and programs
- Encourage students to explore **CTE pathways** including **work-based learning internships**

# Learning Intention 3

3. You will learn about postsecondary transition resources and services available in Utah
  - You will access and utilize postsecondary transition resources and services available in Utah

# Resources Supporting the Predictors in Utah

- Career and Technical Education (CTE)
- Work-based learning
- Interagency collaboration
- Transition Elevated Planning App and Comprehensive Website
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS)
- Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)

# Transition Elevated App



# Postsecondary Transition Website

[Transition Elevated](https://utahtransitionelevated.org): Postsecondary Transition for  
Students with Disabilities

<https://utahtransitionelevated.org>



# Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

- [VR services](#) can begin at age 14 or anytime throughout a person's lifespan
- [Postsecondary Transition Services](#) are for youth 14-24
- Referrals for VR services can be made by counselors, educators, disability services, medical providers
- Eligibility process takes about 30 days

# VR Services Can Include:

- Supported Employment
- Work adjustment & life skills training
- Career exploration assessments
- Assistive technology
- Social Security Work Incentive Planning
- IEP meetings & technical assistance
- Job Readiness Workshops (at your school)
- Counseling and guidance
- Transition coordination
- Disability evaluation and assessment
- Restoration & disability treatment
- Job training & placement supports
- Work based training experiences
- Education & training

# Pre-Employment Transition Services ([Pre-ETS](#))

## 5 Core Services

- Workplace readiness training
- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning
- Counseling on postsecondary education
- Training in self-advocacy

# What Do We Need to Know About Pre-ETS?

- Pre-ETS services are offered at **no cost** to an LEA or student
- Individual or group **delivery of services**
- In or out of school
- After school or summer
- Referrals can be made by parents, **counselors**, teachers, 504 coordinators

# Supports for all Students with Disabilities in College

All colleges have disability services where students can apply for supports:

- Accommodations
- Assistive Technology

Some colleges in Utah have additional supports:

- **Student mentors** -Southern Utah University (SUU), Weber State University (WSU),and Utah Valley University (UVU)
- **Disability specific supports** - PASSAGES @ UVU, for students with Autism, and University of Utah mentors for students with Autism

# College Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

- Postsecondary Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSIDs)
  - Each grant-funded TPSID focuses on students ages 18 to 26 years who have Intellectual Disabilities

# TPSID Programs in Utah

- There are three TPSID programs in Utah:
  - [Aggies Elevated-Utah State University \(USU\) Logan](#)
  - [Aggies Elevated-USU Eastern- Price](#)
  - [Wolverines Elevated- Utah Valley University \(UVU\)- Orem](#)
- There are 316 of these programs nationally. For more information visit [ThinkCollege.net](#)

# Utah Postsecondary Transition Resources

- The USBE Postsecondary Transition team has developed multiple Padlets to support educators, other agencies and families
- The [Utah Postsecondary Transition Padlet](#) is a centralized resource linking to Padlets in many relevant categories



# Need a Lifeline?

Please contact any of the USBE Postsecondary Transition Specialists for help or questions:

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