



WRITING WITH PURPOSE: A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP FOR TRANSITION IEPS

RESOURCE GUIDE



About NTCN

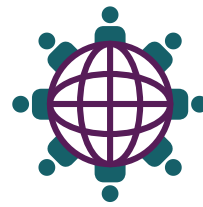
The Northeast Transition Collaborative Network (NTCN) was created in response to gaps in communication and collaboration between school districts, agencies/providers, young adults, parents/caregivers, and community groups. NTCN hosts monthly virtual sessions about adult services and opportunities in the community as well as quarterly professional development opportunities for educators on topics related to person-centered transition, and workshops for families/caretakers around the person-centered planning process.

About This Guide

This guide was created by the Community Resource Center at Northeast Arc. We recognize that not every program on this topic may have been highlighted here. Services and programs are constantly changing. This is meant as an overview of services available to people in Northeastern Massachusetts. We may update these resource guides periodically; if you know of a resource that can be highlighted here, please reach out to us at CommunityResourceCenter@ne-arc.org.

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Transition Assessment Tools

Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments and Resources

<https://witig.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Age-Appropriate-Assessment-Guide.pdf>

A guide providing information regarding transition assessment compliance, definitions, examples, and resources.

AIR Self-Determination Assessment

<https://www.ou.edu/education/zarrow/resources/assessments>

The AIR scale assesses the self-determination strengths and weaknesses of adolescents with disabilities, facilitates student involvement in educational planning, and provides instruction to promote self-determination as an educational outcome. The results assist in the development of self-determination goals and objectives.

Autonomy Checklist

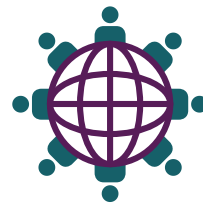
<https://autismhousingpathways.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/02-Modified-Adolescent-Autonomy-Checklist.pdf>

The Autonomy Checklist is a tool that can be helpful in assessing skills related to home and the community settings. Skills are split into domains and assessed as skills that have been achieved, currently worked on, coming up, and skills that the individuals will need continuous support on.

Collaborative Assessment Guide for Transition Planning Services

<https://transitionta.org/transition-assessment-guide/>

A toolkit of information on transition assessments, sample assessments, and tools that can be used to support all parties involved in the transition planning process including students, family members, educators, vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors, human services and health agency staff, and many others.



Tools for Educators

Everyday Speech IEP Goal Bank

<https://pages.everydayspeech.com/massachusetts-iep-goal-bank>

An IEP goal bank created by Everyday Speech using the 2024 Massachusetts IEP Frameworks. The goal bank is designed to be easily editable, with neurodiversity-affirming language and trackable metrics to ensure that goals are attainable while also encouraging personal growth in topics such as self-advocacy skills and emotional regulation .

Self-Advocacy IEP Goals: Examples and Writing Guide

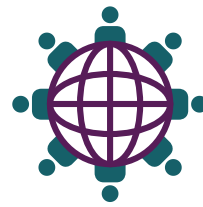
<https://www.structural-learning.com/post/self-advocacy-iep-goals-examples>

Ready-to-use self-advocacy IEP goal examples by grade level created by Structural Learning. The guide includes SMART goals, teaching strategies, disability-specific examples, and measurement tools for IEP teams.

Transition Planning Tools for High School Special Education Teachers

<https://transitionabilities.com/free-transition-planning-tools>

A large list of mostly FREE tools to support teachers and students in the transition process. The list includes planning/organizing tools, career and vocational exploration tools, independent living tools, and tools to help the student lead their IEP.



Professional Development Tools

Blume Method

<https://www.blumemethod.com/>

The Blume Method is a platform that provides educators and administrators with tools focusing on IEP development, meaningful data collection, and professional growth. The team offers on-demand webinars and in-person workshops for educators and administrators.

Collaborative or Educational Services

<https://www.collaborative.org/consulting/special-education-consulting/support-for-the-new-massachusetts-iep/>

The Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) offers in-person consulting, training, and coaching to help schools and districts effectively implement the 2024 Massachusetts IEP. CES emphasizes best practices such as including student voice, data-informed present levels, strong goal writing, inclusive practices, and transition planning. Trainings are available for all school personnel involved in supporting students with IEPs including educators, service providers, and paraprofessionals.

IEP Professional Development Resources from Massachusetts Statewide Family Engagement Center

<https://masfec.org/ma-iep-professional-development-resources/>

A collection of professional development resources designed to support educators, leaders, and support staff in implementing use of the 2024 IEP. There are trainings, templates, and sample documents from sections of IEPs.

IRIS Center (Vanderbilt Peabody College)

<https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/>

IRIS offers modules, case study units, activities, and information for educators across topics. IRIS also offers free Professional Development certificates for educators a-la-carte as well as through a School & District Platform for a nominal fee.

IRIS Center- Secondary Transition: Student-Centered Transition Planning Module

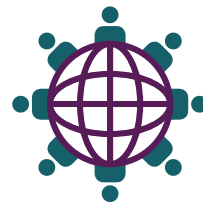
<https://iris.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/module/tran-scp/>

The module is designed to help users to better understand the benefits of student-centered transition planning, identify ways to involve students in collecting assessment information, developing goals, and prepare students to actively participate in their own IEP meetings.

Strategic Calibration Training Systems

<https://sctstraining.com/>

Strategic Calibration Training Systems provides flexible, educator-focused professional development designed to strengthen special education practice and compliance. SCTS offers self-paced online courses and customizable in-person trainings that support educators and district leaders in understanding IDEA, Massachusetts IEP requirements, specially designed instruction (SDI), and inclusive instructional practices.



IEP Guidance

Collaborative for Educational Services IEP Toolkit

<https://www.collaborative.org/ces-iep-toolkit/>

The Collaborative for Educational Services created the toolkit with resources to support implementation, collaboration, and compliance regulations. The resource includes sample agendas, team meeting note templates, data collection charts, checklists for roles/responsibilities of members of the team (e.g. service providers, educator, student, families, etc.), and additional resources to support the use of the 2024 IEP.

DESE's Secondary Transition Planning with the New Individualized Education Program (IEP) Form: Quick Reference Guide

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/specialeducation/iep/transition-planning.pdf>

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MA DESE) made improvements to the IEP form for use beginning in school year 2023-2024. The new form incorporates ways that help students with disabilities successfully transition from high school to postsecondary education, training, employment, community participation, and independent living. This quick reference guide includes information, recommended strategies, and resources to make the secondary transition planning process go smoothly.

Massachusetts Individual Education Program (IEP) Technical Guide

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/specialeducation/iep/iep-technical-guide.docx>

The guide is a step-by-step tool for IEP Teams to utilize for before, during, and after an IEP meeting. The 2024 IEP and the guide is intended to provide opportunities for families, schools, and districts to work together to build better systems that more effectively support students with disabilities. To support the IEP efforts, the guide goes through each section of the IEP document and the action steps to take by personnel on the team (including families) during each step of the IEP process while maintaining compliance with state and federal regulations.

Massachusetts Postsecondary Transition Planning Checklist for Indicator 13

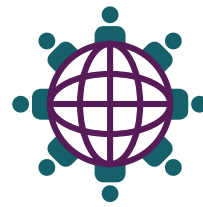
<https://www.doe.mass.edu/specialeducation/iep/transition/indicator13.html>

A checklist provided by the Department for Elementary and Secondary Education to use in reviewing IEPs to ensure documents are complete and follow state/federal regulations.

New Individualized Education Program (IEP) Form: Quick Reference Guide from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/specialeducation/iep/info-for-parents.pdf>

The quick reference guide is a tool that can be shared with parents/families to remind them of the format of the IEP and what information is featured in each section, how they can prepare, and how to partner with school/team.



Tools for Students

Goal Plan Visual Organizer

<https://imdetermined.org/tool/goal-plan/>

The Goal Plan is a simple tool to help youth set and attain goals by providing a visual organizer in the steps to reach their goal(s). There are videos to provide instructions and visuals to the student using the visual organizer and provide an understanding of the importance.

I'm Determined

<http://www.imdetermined.org/>

A comprehensive website with numerous resources for educators, parents, and youth. The I'm Determined project focuses on providing direct instruction, models, and opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determined behavior. This project facilitates youth, especially those with disabilities, to undertake a measure of control in their lives, helping to set and steer the course rather than remaining the silent passenger.

Identity and Self-Awareness Worksheet

<https://imdetermined.org/tool/one-pager/>

A tool to help students focus on key details that will help educators, support personnel, and family get to know the student better. The worksheet has an accompanying video to support student understanding of the tool.

Student Rubric for IEP Participation

<https://imdetermined.org/tool/student-rubric-for-iep-participation/>

This rubric helps students reflect on their current level of participation in their IEP process, and plan for the next level.

Resources to Support Caregivers & Families in IEP Process

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IEP Resources for Parents from the Special Education Advocacy Network (SPAN)

<https://spanadvocacy.org/programs/start/startiep-resources/>

Simplified tools and guides for parents/caregivers to help them prepare for IEP meetings, understand the IEP sections, and highlight their students strengths, interests, and vision. The tools on the site are available in English and Spanish.