Pursuit of Equity –
Maximizing Postsecondary Outcomes for Students With Disabilities Through Systems Alignment

July 19, 2018
Welcome and Introduction

Ellen Cushing – Deputy Director, CCRS Center
WBL Webinar Series

- Pursuit of Equity: Leveraging Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities (May 10, 2018)
- Pursuit of Equity: Aligning Transition Planning From the State, District, and School Levels (June 28, 2018)
- Pursuit of Equity: Maximizing Postsecondary Outcomes for Students with Disabilities Through Systems Alignment (July 19, 2018)
- Pursuit of Equity: Teacher Preparation for Inclusion of Students with Disabilities (Fall 2018)

Registration: [https://goo.gl/forms/8mwfP5dSE9EW74GI3](https://goo.gl/forms/8mwfP5dSE9EW74GI3)
What Is the CCRS Center?

Who?
State education agencies (SEAs) and local education agencies (LEAs)

What?
Build SEA and LEA capacity to implement college and career readiness (CCR) policies

How?
Provide technical assistance, including targeted and intensive support

www.ccrscenter.org
CCRSCenter@air.org
Engaging With Us

Post-event feedback survey

Recorded webinar
http://www.ccrscenter.org/products-resources/ccrs-center-webinars-events
Poll Question

- To what extent does your agency or organization formalize cross-sector/cross-systems partnerships to support career readiness for students with disabilities?
  - To a great extent
  - Somewhat
  - Very little
  - Not at all
  - I don’t know
Agenda

- Welcome and Introduction
- Audience Poll #1
- Aligning Systems and Cross-Stakeholder Partnerships to Support Career Readiness for Students With Disabilities
  - The Value
  - Challenges and Promising Practices
- Perspectives From the Field: Maine – Vocational Rehabilitation and Dept. of Education
- Wrap-Up
Today’s Presenters

- **Dr. Tessie Bailey**, Principal Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research (AIR), Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability, and Reform (CEEDAR) Center, National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI)
- **Dahlia Shaewitz**, Managing Researcher and Practice Area Director, Disability and Rehabilitation, AIR
- **Libby Stone-Sterling**, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Maine Department of Labor
- **Dr. Roberta Lucas**, Federal Programs Coordinator, Maine Department of Education
- Moderator: **GeMar Neloms**, Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, AIR, CCRS Center
The Value of Aligning Systems and Cross-Stakeholder Partnerships to Support Career Readiness for Students With Disabilities

Tessie Rose Bailey, PhD
Why Is Collaboration and System Alignment Important?

Multiple pieces of legislation support youth with disabilities!

- The Vocational Rehabilitation Act (Section 504)
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
- The Higher Education Opportunity Act
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014)
- Assistive Technology Act of 2004
What Does the Research Suggest?

- **Interagency collaboration** is a predictor of post-school employment and education
- **Partnerships** as a promising practice
- **Access to community service providers** during transition increases engagement in post-school employment and education experiences

(Mazzotti et al., 2015; Repetto, Webb, Garvan, & Washington, 2002; Sherman, Leahy, Del Valle, Anderson, Tansey, & Lui, 2014; Test et al., 2009)
What Is Interagency Collaboration?

“A clear, purposeful, and carefully designed process that promotes cross-agency, cross-program, and cross-disciplinary collaborative efforts leading to tangible transition outcomes for youth” (Mazzotti, et al., 2015).

Benefits:

• Coordinate services and supports
• Identify and address gaps in services within the community
• Reduce costs by leveraging resources
• Increase efficiency in delivery of transition services

(Mazzotti, et al., 2015; Test et al., 2009)
Who Are Potential Key Collaborators?

- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Community Organizations
- Employers
- Students and Families
- DOE – General Education (ESSA)
- Local Education Agencies
- Department of Education - CTE
- Postsecondary – Office of Disabilities
- DOE– Special Services (IDEA)
References


Challenges and Promising Practices of Aligning Systems and Cross-Stakeholder Partnerships to Support Career Readiness for Students With Disabilities

Dahlia M. Shaewitz, Managing Director, AIR
Challenges to Collaboration Between Agencies

- **Trust.** Spend time developing relationships, building trust, and communicating regularly.
- **Mutual benefits.** Establish the value-add for both parties.
- **Data sharing.** This can be a significant challenge, even when the offices are housed within the same agency.
Strategies for Success

- **Funding**
- **Communication**
  - Meetings and newsletters – share progress, share results
  - Create a shared language
  - Engage people with disabilities
- **Identify a liaison**
Success Stories

- **Caveat:** Research is ongoing

- **Maine Transition Work-Based Learning Demonstration project** led by Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

- **Creating Access to Successful Employment Project (Project CASE)** led by the Kentucky Office for the Blind (OFB) with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

- **Career Pathways for Individuals with Disabilities (CPID) Project** led by Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Questions?
Who We Are

- **Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)**
  - Located in the Maine Department of Labor
  - 25 targeted DVR Counselors who serve transition-age youth
  - More than one-third of the individuals DVR serves are of transition age
  - Every Maine high school has an assigned DVR Counselor
  - Preparing youth to enter employment though such services as career exploration, work-based learning, guidance and counseling, education and training, and job development and placement

- **Maine Department of Education (MDOE)**
  - Maine requires all 9th graders to have a postsecondary transition in IEP
  - Professional development provided to 30+ high schools staff each year as part of compliance monitoring for Indicator 13 – 96%
  - Preparing youth for college and career readiness with various partnerships
Getting Our Partnership Started

- The Population – transition-age students with disabilities
- The Agreement – memorandum of understanding
- The Catalyst – State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
- The Support – National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)
- The Goal – appropriate student-centered transition planning leading to improved postsecondary education and employment outcomes
Benefits of Partnering

- Implementation of best practices
- Student-centered focus
- Connections to local efforts
- Development of interagency dialogue
- Shared vocabulary/cross-training
- Joint policies – Employment First, WIOA, Data Sharing, State Plan
- Alignment of efforts = increased efficiency and better use of resources
Engaging Stakeholders

- School Districts
- Teachers
- Students
- Families
- Providers

TEST
- Translating Evidence for Successful Transitions

Maine Medical Center
- Work Benefits Navigator
- Postsecondary benefit planning

NTACT/DCDT

- Summer Work Experience
Evidence and Data-Informed Decision-Making

- **Data Sources**
  - VR case records
  - SPP – APR (Indicators 13 & 14)
  - Due Process data
  - Staff surveys

- **NTACT**
  - Best practices
  - Technical assistance
  - Research
Supporting Our Partnership Efforts

- Time
- Staffing
- Consistent stakeholders

- Professional development
- Building opportunities for regular communication
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
Building Skills for Postsecondary Success

- Individualized Transition and VR Services
- Group Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Classroom Activities
- Home & Community Activities
Questions?
Data on secondary and postsecondary education participation and employment outcomes

CCR strategies to support postsecondary education and career opportunities

Provisions under ESSA and IDEA that support CCR

Examples of effective practices

Guidance for state leaders
Links to Resources

- College and Career Readiness and Success Center [www.ccrscenter.org](http://www.ccrscenter.org)
- NTACT Predictors Correlated With Post-School Outcome Areas [https://www.transitionta.org/sites/default/files/Pred_Outcomes_0.pdf](https://www.transitionta.org/sites/default/files/Pred_Outcomes_0.pdf)
Wrap-Up