

SELF-DETERMINATION AND YOUTH INVESTMENT RESOURCES

This Resource Guide contains information that has been found to be helpful on this topic. It contains only websites with materials that can be accessed at no cost.

Arizona Youth Action Council (YAC-AZ)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Action-Council-of-Arizona-YAC-AZ/117305251852>

Here you will find links to favorite websites, information on upcoming events, pictures from past events, and lively discussions about issues that affect youth with disabilities in Arizona. The mission of YAC-AZ is to empower youth to take personal responsibility to improve quality in their lives as they learn how to be better self-advocates.

Breaking Ranks – National Association of Secondary School Principals

<http://www.nassp.org/school-improvement/breaking-ranks-comprehensive-framework>

Breaking Ranks: The Comprehensive Framework for School Improvement offers an integrated approach to school improvement that recognizes that substantive improvement will only be successful and sustainable if it is continuous, involves an ongoing and rigorous analysis of the entire school's needs, and takes into account the interdependence of elements within a learning community. It incorporates four critical questions that each school must answer as they begin the process of school improvement: why, what, how, and who?

Breaking Ranks in the Middle – National Association of Secondary School Principals

<http://www.nassp.org/school-improvement/breaking-ranks-in-the-middle>

Breaking Ranks in the Middle, a follow-up to *Breaking Ranks II: Strategies for Leading High School Reform*, provides middle level leaders with knowledge, strategies and tools to use to engage the middle level community – staff, students, parents & community members – as they work together to create an academically rigorous, personalized learning environment that leads to improved student performance.

Career and Technical Education Resource Center

<http://www.cteresource.org/about/index.html>

The CTE Resource Center supports career and technical and occupational-technical preparation programs by providing resources for curriculum development and program design and implementation in response to the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. This site holds a variety of publications and documents such as the R U Ready Magazine, Career Planning Guide, and the Education Wizard.

Choose Work Facebook Page

<http://www.facebook.com/choosework>

The new Choose Work Facebook Page

Council of Chief State School Officers

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

CCSSO and National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) have released a set of state-led education standards, the Common Core State Standards. The English-language arts and mathematics standards for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, states, teachers, school administrators and parents. The standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning that will prepare America's children for success in college and work.

Credentialed by 26- Forum for youth Investment

<http://www.forumfyi.org/category/series/ready-21-credentialed-26>

Credentialed by 26 provides resources to insulate the education pipeline for older, vulnerable youth, by providing the supports necessary for their success. It identifies partners that need to be mobilized and policy approaches that need to be enacted in order to significantly increase completion rates and help more young people successfully transition to adulthood.

DC Partners in Transition

<http://www.dctransitions.org>

Teens and young adults with disabilities often have questions about the future, like "Where can I get my first real job? How do I get my own place? How can I pay college tuition? Should I disclose my disability to employers or professors?" This website was created to help young adults with disabilities in the DC area answer these questions and plan for their future. It provides success stories and local resources to assist ALL teens and young adults achieve their dreams.

Division on Career Development and Transition

www.dcdt.org

The mission of DCDT is to promote national and international efforts to improve the quality of and access to, career/vocational and transition services, increase the participation of education in career development and transition goals and to influence policies affecting career development and transition services for persons with disabilities. The website contains numerous resources on career/vocational and transition services.

Federal Disability Website

<http://www.disability.gov>

Federal site for more than 50 federal organizations that communicate, promote, and/ serve the disability communities. On September 26, 2011 OSEP updated its guidance on identifying postsecondary goals in training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living.

Find Youth Info

<http://www.findyouthinfo.gov>

Through the Youth Topics series on this website, the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs provides information, strategies, tools, and resources for youth, families, schools and community organizations related to a variety of cross-cutting topics that affect youth.

Gallaudet University Decisionmaker Program

www.gallaudet.edu/documents/clerc/odyssey-20062007-v8i1-p23.pdf

A Student-directed Transition Program which helps students develop essential skills in planning and decision-making.

IDEA Partnership CoP on Transition

<http://ideapartnership.org>

The Community of Practice on Transition focuses on issues such as meaningful youth role, increasing accessible transportation, and outreach to child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, employment, and post-secondary options.

I'm Determined

<http://www.imdetermined.org>

This website contains brochures, power point presentations, video clips, lesson plans, and five strategies with templates and examples all designed to assist parents and teachers with helping youth become more self-determined. There are also several modules that were developed to help service providers gain more insight and understanding about self-determination. The site contains information for educators, parents and students.

Incorporating Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Into the IEP by Laura A. Riffel and Ann P. Turnbull, Beach Center on Disabilities (University of Kansas) and Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior Support

<http://www.bridges4kids.org/parentiep.pdf>

This document includes information on advanced preparation, what to do/expect during the meeting (developing goals, determining placement, assessments, grading, etc.), and concluding the meeting.

LearningPort National Professional Development Library

<http://www.learningport.us>

LearningPort is a national professional development library of learning modules, tool kits, archived webinars and video resources designed by U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to support the use of ARRA funds. The library was made available through a supplement to NASDSE's IDEA Partnership. Larry Wexler, Director of OSEP's Research to Practice Division expressed the intent of The LearningPort in this way: "We believe that after saving jobs, most school districts would use at least some of their ARRA

funds to support the provision of professional development. As such, we wanted to develop a resource for States.

Maryland Youth Leadership Forum (MD-YLF)

<http://innow.org/home/youth-leadership-forum/about?3e3ea140>

The purposes of the MD-YLF are to:

- provide an opportunity, unlike any currently existing in Maryland, for young people with disabilities to attend an intensive forum emphasizing leadership, independence & personal and career goal setting.
- encourage youth to pursue their academic and career goals by exposing them to successful role models, i.e., adults with disabilities who have a variety of achievements.
- give youth the knowledge of resources that can help enable them to develop and achieve their goals.
- teach youth with disabilities about the cultural history of their predecessors with disabilities, including the long struggle for Civil Rights, which resulted in legislation such as The Americans with Disabilities Act.

National Career Development Association (NCDA) Career Information Resources

http://associationdatabase.com/aws/NCDA/pt/sp/interests_disabilities

The NCDA provides information and resources related to career development and counseling. This website links specifically to career-related information related to individuals with disabilities. Publications, initiatives, and organizations related to careers and disabilities are highlighted and website links provided.

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition

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

The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) located at University of Minnesota's [Institute on Community Integration](#) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth with disabilities in order to create opportunities for youth to achieve successful futures.

National Center on Universal Design for Learning

www.udlcenter.org/

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn. Founded in 2009, the National UDL Center supports the effective implementation of UDL by connecting stakeholders in the field and providing resources and information.

National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

www.ndpc-sd.org

The ultimate goal the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities is to provide high quality, evidence-based technical assistance to help states build and implement sustainable programs and best practices that will yield positive results in dropout prevention, reentry, and school completion for

students with disabilities. NDPC-SD has the following four interrelated goals, which captures its overarching purpose and supports the Center's mandate.

- Goal 1: Increase the awareness of policymakers, administrators, and practitioners about dropout prevention, reentry, and school completion.
- Goal 2: Increase the number of states that set and meet reasonable and rigorous performance targets for State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators 1 and 2.
- Goal 3: Help State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) develop and improve data systems to track students at risk of dropping out.
- Goal 4: Help SEAs and LEAs implement and evaluate effective, comprehensive school-completion models, practices, and systems for students with disabilities.

National High School Center

<http://www.betterhighschools.org>

The National High School Center, based at the American Institutes for Research, provides the latest research, user-friendly tools and products, and high-quality technical assistance on high school improvement issues.

National Post-school Outcomes Center

www.psocenter.org

The Center's mission is to help state education agencies establish practical and rigorous data collection systems that will measure and profile the post-school experiences of youth with disabilities (i.e., Indicator 14). The results of collecting I-14 data will be used for national, state, and local reporting and, most importantly, to guide and improve transition services to this population.

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center

www.nsttac.org

NSTTAC helps states build capacity to support and improve transition planning, services, and outcomes for youth with disabilities and disseminates information and provides technical assistance on scientifically-based research practices with an emphasis on building and sustaining state-level infrastructures of support and district-level demonstrations of effective transition methods for youth with disabilities.

National Youth Leadership Network (NYLN)

<http://www.nyln.org/about-us/about-us/>

NYLN is a youth-led organization. We work to build power among people with disabilities between the ages of 16- 28 years old. We want to support young people in their role as the next generation of leadership in the Disability Rights Movement. NYLN has been around since 1997. We are the only youth-led disability rights nonprofit organization in the country.

The NYLN:

- Promotes youth leadership development.

- Values inclusion, interdependent support systems, and disability pride.
- Works to create access to the resources youth need to be leaders.
- Supports work being done by youth activists with disabilities on the local level.
- Trains youth with disabilities.
- Connects youth leaders with opportunities to serve and be active members of their communities.

Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)

<http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

The Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) was authorized by Congress in the Department of Labor's FY 2001 appropriation. ODEP's mission is to provide national leadership by developing and influencing disability employment-related policies and practices affecting an increase in the employment of people with disabilities. The site provides information on recent and ongoing research projects and technical assistance. The FAQ provides both employers and workers with a wealth of information.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

<http://www.pbis.org>

The OSEP Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a collaboration among the U.S. Department of Education and 11 technical assistance units across the United States. This website contains newsletters, a resource catalog, and presentation resources on PBIS and Response to Instruction (RtI), families, and other related topics.

Office of Special Education Programs, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U S Department of Education

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html?src=mr>

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is dedicated to improving results for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities ages birth through 21 by providing leadership and financial support to assist states and local districts. It supports research, demonstrations, and technical assistance and dissemination, technology and personnel development and parent-training and information centers. This website provides resources, newsletters, and research.

OSEP's Learning Port

<http://www.learningport.us>

A national online library of professional development resources compiled to help bridge research, policy and practice. Across states, national organizations and technical assistance investments, an extensive amount of professional development material is available. This library provides local educators with easy access to an array of resources that can be used or customized to meet their needs.

OSEP's Technical Assistance and Dissemination Network

<http://www.rfccnetwork.org>

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs supports projects that provide information and technical assistance to states, local schools, educational professionals and families. The projects address topics such as autism, deafness, disproportional representation, dispute resolution, learning disabilities, parenting children with special needs, positive behavior support and transition. Most information and technical assistance is available free of charge.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

<http://www.p21.org/>

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a national organization that advocates for 21st century readiness for every student. As the United States continues to compete in a global economy that demands innovation, P21 and its members provide tools and resources to help the U.S. education system keep up by fusing the three Rs and four Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation). While leading districts and schools are already doing this, P21 advocates for local, state and federal policies that support this approach for every school

PA Transition Health Care Checklist: Transition to Adult Living in PA

www.health.state.pa/transitionchecklist

The website provides a transition health care checklist.

Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network

<http://www.pyln.org>

The mission of PYLN is to develop self-determination, empowerment, and leadership of young adults with disabilities throughout Pennsylvania. The website provides resources, toolkits, webinars, and PowerPoints.

Positive Youth Development/National Conference of State Legislators

<http://www.ncst.org/?tabid=16375>

This website focuses upon:

- Positive Youth Development Frameworks
- State Policies that Support Positive Youth Development
- Resources for Positive Youth Development Strategies

Ready by 21 - Forum for Youth Investment

<http://www.forumfyi.org/readyby21>

Ready by 21 is an innovative set of strategies developed by national experts at the Forum for Youth Investment with decades of youth policy experience that help communities improve the odds that all children and youth will be ready for college, work and life.

Ready by 21 is built on the Four Building Blocks for Effective Change:

- Build broader partnerships
- Set bigger goals

- Use better data and information
- Implement bolder strategies

Research in Support of Youth Voice and Service-learning

www.servicelearning.org

An easy-to-search database of hundreds of high-quality research documents on service-learning and youth voice.

Social Security Administration's (SSA) Red Book Website

<http://www.ssa.gov/redbook/eng/main.htm>

Direct link to the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Red Book (has everything a student, parent and teacher needs to know about SSA)

Social Security Publications Website

<http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/index.html#Disability>

Link to all Social Security publications; this site also has ordering information whether requesting materials by email or phone.

Social Security Ticket to Work Website

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work>

The Work Site, for all things Ticket to Work (TTW)

Special Olympics Project Unify

http://www.specialolympics.org/project_unify.aspx

Project UNIFY is a U.S. national project, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is much more than a re-naming of existing school-based programs; rather, it is an innovative response to the unequivocal research that shows Special Olympics local programming can contribute to eradicating the social and environmental walls to inclusion. Youth leadership standards proposed by the Kennedy Foundation are available on this website.

Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC)

<http://www.taccweb.org/desc.html>

The Technical Assistance Coordination Center (TACC) is designed to support the efforts of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to maintain and increase ongoing communication, collaboration, and coordination among the 40+ centers in OSEP's Technical Assistance and Dissemination (TA&D) Network, and to expand activities between OSEP's centers and other relevant federally funded TA&D Centers, national professional organizations, and a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The goal of their work is to ensure that States have high quality, coordinated TA focused on improving educational results and functional outcomes for infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities and their families. The TACC's work includes: (a) integrating in one place and on one platform the technology tools that TA&D centers use to provide data on the information and activities they make available (e.g., the Portal, the Matrix, the IDEA Web site, the Discretionary Database, and various listservs); (b)

coordinating conferences and meetings; (c) managing the Proposed Product Advisory Board that collects data on products proposed within the network; and (d) encouraging communication and coordination between OSEP-funded centers through various workgroups, listservs, and the TA Communities of Practice.

Virginia Career VIEW

<http://www.vaview.vt.edu/>

The Virginia Career VIEW site is designed for youth grades K-8, parents and teachers. This site helps students explore career interests. The site is interactive with many resources. There is an opportunity for children to play over 20 career exploration games, discover books about their career interest, tips and ideas to help students do better in school. Older students can begin a college search based on their interests. Teachers and parents will learn about workshops and various activities that engage youth in discovering a broad variety of careers.

Wisconsin Youth First

http://wiyouthfirst.org/about_us.html

This website was created by a group of youth with disabilities for youth in the state of Wisconsin so we could find information about youth leadership and how to get involved in one, convenient location.

Work Incentives Website

<http://www.chooseworkttw.net/wise/jsp/wise.jsp>

Social Security's Ticket to Work program supports career development for people with disabilities who want to work. Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 qualify. The Ticket program is free and voluntary. The Ticket Program helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence.