

The IDEA Partnership

National Association of State Directors of Special Education
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 320
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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National Community of Practice in Support of Transition

Title:

National Community of Practice in Support of Transition Annual Meeting
April 29 - May 1, 2007
Charlotte, North Carolina

and

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center's (NSTTAC) first annual
Secondary Transition State Planning Institute
May 2 – 4, 2007.

Event Description:

The *National Community of Practice in Support of Transition Annual Meeting* was held in conjunction with and prior to the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center's (NSTTAC) first annual *Secondary Transition State Planning Institute in Charlotte, NC, May 2 – 4, 2007*. The first section of this report describes the Transition community annual meeting content, participants and outcomes. It is followed by a brief description of the NSTTAC Planning Institute.

National Community of Practice in Support of Transition Annual Meeting

The National Community of Practice in Support of Transition held their annual meeting April 29 - May 1, 2007 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This event was sponsored by the IDEA Partnership (<http://www.ideapartnership.org>) at the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE) (<http://www.nasdse.org>), a project funded by the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) (<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/osep/index.html>). A welcoming dinner brought together State teams, representatives from national organizations and technical assistance centers, partners from the US Department of Education, and other invited guests.

The focus of Day 1 included:

- Training on website designed to support communication and shared work
- Community Building: A Year-Round Strategy to Achieve Better Outcomes
*Co-facilitated by state leaders and introduced: **Communities of Practice: A New Approach to Solving Complex Educational Problems***
(see <http://ideapartnership.org/documents/CoPGuide.pdf>)
- Youth Role: A Fresh Look: A Renewed Commitment -- *Co-led by the Youth Practice*
- State Meeting Time/State Meeting Report
- Organizational and Technical Assistance Provider Time

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Day 2 provided an opportunity for State-to-State Sharing around Issues – Topics selected on the Community Call on April 11, 2007 include:

- Creating and sustaining Youth Leadership Initiatives
- Engaging families, including families from diverse backgrounds
- Ideas/successes in using www.sharedwork.org to build state to local connections
- Building and strengthening a State Community of Practice: State, local and state-to-local
- Identifying and documenting outcomes achieved through community building, including cross-agency outcomes
- Outreach to child welfare and juvenile justice: Focus on foster care youth
In foster care, on probation or in school reentry
- Transportation and driver education: Keys to independence and employment
- Post-secondary options

The community explored *Transition and High School Redesign: What is the connection? What is the impact? Where are the models?* The discussion was led by Larry Gloeckler, International Center for Leadership and former State Director of Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation, NY. The group then focused the discussion at the local level *HS Redesign and Transition at the Local Level: How can we build on the work of NASSP in the Breaking Ranks initiative? How can we connect to local leaders?* This discussion was facilitated by Jay Engeln, National Association of Secondary School Principals and former HS Principal, Colorado Springs, CO. The final session focused on developing the future course of the community.

Participants included:

States: Alabama, Arizona, District of Columbia, Delaware, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin

National Organizations:

American Association of School Administrators
The American School Counselor Association
Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation
Division of Career Development & Transition/CEC
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Council on Independent Living

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National Education Association
Family Voices
National Youth Leadership Network

TA Providers:

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center
Federal Resource Center
International Center for Leadership in Education
National Post-School Outcomes Center
Great Lakes West Comprehensive Assistance Center
PEPnet Midwest

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center's (NSTTAC) *Secondary Transition State Planning Institute*

NSTTAC hosted the first annual Secondary Transition State Planning Institute in Charlotte, NC May 2 – 4, 2007. The goal of the institute was to improve States' implementation of research-based transition practices. NSTTAC will use the Taxonomy for Transition Programming (see <http://www.nsttac.org>) as a framework for effective practices. The Institute included content presentations regarding effective practices and provided state teams with facilitated planning times to examine aspects of their capacity building, including data-based decision making, professional development, technical assistance, and policy analysis in connection with improved performance on secondary transition-related indicators for their Part B Annual Performance Reports.

Where to go for more information – project contact information

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