IN THIS ISSUE
Youth Story of the Month: Matthew Kreke
Service Provider of the Month: Family Matters PTIC
Transition Information to Know Link
Transition Service Providers

The purpose of our NewsBlast is to provide information to youth ages 14 1/2 to 22, parents, and professionals who serve youth with disabilities in planning for, and achieving, a successful transition into high school, through high school, and into needed adult services.

How will this work?
Youth, parents, and professionals will receive a monthly “news blast” that will highlight a youth story of the month, a service provider of the month, a link to an article about transition or self-advocacy, and links to service organizations and agencies that provide services to youth with disabilities as they transition out of school services.

The contents of this NewsBlast were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, #H328M200072. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer David Emenheiser.
Youth Story of the Month

Matthew Kreke is a successful entrepreneur. He graduated magna cum laude from Lake Land College with a degree in Computer Science and certificate in Game Development. As a young adult with autism, OCD, & ADHD, Matthew proves that labels do not determine outcomes. He is the event manager of the upcoming EFFING-CON Video, Board & Card Game Convention. We congratulate him on his success.

Matthew Kreke       217-663-7097
retropoweredgames@gmail.com
Facebook: Effing-Con

October 16, 2021
10:00—6:00
Village Square Mall—Effingham, IL
https://tabletop.events/conventions/effing-con
We build upon families’ strengths, to empower parents and professionals to achieve the strongest outcomes for students with disabilities and to enhance the quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities.
Public Act 102-0172 changed the Illinois law related to the ages of children with disabilities served in schools. Previously qualifying students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) could receive special education services through the day before their 22nd birthday. Now these students can finish out the entire school year in which they turn 22.

Learn more from the Illinois State Board of Education’s FAQ:

Social Security Administration

SSA provides government benefits to eligible individuals including Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Search the website for “disability benefits”. Search “ticket to work” to learn about working while receiving benefits.

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living

CILs exist to help people with disabilities achieve maximum independence in work, school, housing and every other part of life. They offer peer support, information and referral, individual and systems advocacy, independent living skills training, and transition support to bridge high school to college and/or work.
IDES administers employment services in Illinois. Search “Employment First” on the website to learn how Illinois law promotes community-based, integrated employment as the first option for employment-related services for individuals with disabilities.

Community Residential Services Authority

CRSA provides technical assistance to families, service providers, educators and other professionals to help plan for and implement appropriate, effective services for children with severe emotional disturbances and behavior disorders in Illinois. This includes youth in high school.

Illinois Department of Human Services

Division of Rehabilitation Services – DRS

DRS assists people with disabilities in making informed choices to achieve full community participation through employment, education, and independent living opportunities. They provide personal attendants through their Home Services Program.

PAS agencies conduct and arrange for assessment of individuals with developmental disabilities who are in need of active treatment. ISCs assist in setting up services and registering individuals for the PUNS database of persons in need of services and funding.
The Autism Program of Illinois serves and support persons with autism spectrum disorder and their families through a coordinated network of providers, parents, and university programs. They provide evidence-based services for individuals including youth of transition age. They connect youth through programs such as virtual support groups and social skills groups.

UIC Specialized Care for Children

UIC-SCC partners with families and children and youth (to age 18) with special healthcare needs. Care coordinators work with families to put together a transition plan that identifies clear goals for adulthood and the strategies, services and resources necessary to achieve them.

Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center

FMPTIC provides individual support to youth with disabilities and their parents related to educational services and provides training on transition-related topics. Staff work with youth on self-advocacy skills and teach them about their special education rights and responsibilities.

Please let us know of other organizations that serve youth statewide to add to this list.

info@fmptic.org