The purpose of our NewsBlast is to provide information to youth ages 14 1/2 through 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.

Youth Story: Jaydan Adams
Featured Service Provider: Think College
Transition Information to Know Link
Transition Service Providers

Look for the next issue of the NewsBlast in October!

Check out our Blog for youth in transition, young adults with disabilities, and their parents!
https://selfadvocacyrocksfmptic.blogspot.com/2021/08/

www.fmptic.org info@fmptic.org 866-436-7842
www.facebook.com/FamilyMattersPTIC
https://selfadvocacyrocksfmptic.blogspot.com/

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Jadyn Adams is a recent graduate of the Shelbyville High school. Jadyn is determined to fulfill her dreams of becoming an elementary school teacher. Jadyn says she can’t wait to be a teacher some day and work with younger children. Jadyn utilized the support of an IEP while in school to overcome the barriers she faces daily pertaining to her disability.

Jadyn recently met with the student Service department at Lakeland College to understand how the accommodations in her IEP will follow her to Lakeland! Jadyn plans to study to be an elementary education teacher and attend Lakeland College and later transfer to EIU!
"It takes a big heart to help shape little minds!"

Jadyn is hearing impaired and uses the support of both sign language and a cochlear implant. Jadyn attended elementary and grade school through E.A.I.S.E’s Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program in Mattoon Illinois.

By the end of her eighth grade year Jadyn was ready to attend her home district school with the friends and sports teams that she loves. She advocated for herself and began her freshman year at Shelbyville Schools.

Jadyn achieved honor roll, played sports, was part of a APA junior pool league, and took part in the teacher assistance program at the Shelbyville Kindergarten, while in high school.

Teacher Robyn Carswell stated, “Jadyn has been one of the most unique students I have ever met. When I met her as a freshman, she was painfully shy, and wouldn’t even ask for help. It took four years to develop a relationship where she felt comfortable enough to come to me for help, guidance, or just to talk!

I feel like I could have learned so much more from her about how to teach those who have an entirely different culture. Those who are deaf/hard-of-hearing communicate with sign, but it goes so much deeper. There is an understanding among that community that those of us who can hear could certainly learn from. In my opinion, they communicate with much more emotion than the rest of us. It’s absolutely beautiful to watch.

Even so, Jadyn fits in the hearing world too. Using her cochlear implants, she has learned to watch others very carefully for clues to understand what she cannot hear. I look forward to seeing where life takes Jadyn, but I sure hope she can still take time to visit with her teacher!
Think College provides resources, technical assistance and training related to college options for students with intellectual disability, and manages the only national listing of college programs for students with intellectual disability in the United States.

Think College is a national technical assistance, research, and evaluation center dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving higher education options for students with intellectual disability.

ILLINOIS STATE CONTACT INFORMATION

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https://thinkcollege.net/
Think College is dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving research and practice in inclusive higher education for students with intellectual disability.
Schedule a MAP with Family Matters
Email: info@fmptic.org

CALLING ALL STUDENTS AGES 14 AND UP!!
LETS MAP YOUR FUTURE

WHAT IS MAPS?
MAPS, or Making Action Plans, is a planning process used by teams to help students plan for their futures.

THE MAPS PROCESS PROVIDES A STRUCTURED FORMAT THAT HELPS WITH THE TASK OF GATHERING INFORMATION FOR A TRANSITION PLAN THAT IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE IEP

CONTACT US TODAY
INFO@FMPTIC.ORG

MAP appointments are free and can be scheduled in person or virtually
Transition Information to Know

In Illinois Transition Plans Start at age 14 1/2
· Transition assessment is an ongoing process of gathering information about strengths, interests, tastes and needs using formal and informal methods.
· Results from age-appropriate transition assessment must be used to develop measurable postsecondary goals.
· An age-appropriate transition assessment must be administered annually, completed before the IEP meeting, and include input from the student. https://www.pacer.org/transition/

Transition Service Providers:

(Click on the logos to get to the websites)

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.

Independent Service Coordination (ISC) /Pre-Admission Screening (PAS)

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

The Autism Program of Illinois serves and supports 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.

Illinois Assistive Technology Project

IATP provides free information and assistance on assistive technology and other related disability topics. They can provide assistive technology evaluations and devices, including those to support community living, education, and employment. IATP provides WIPA (Work Incentives Planning and Assistance) services for 67 counties of Illinois. This program helps those receiving SSI/SSDI to make informed choices about employment.

The Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission protects the rights and promotes the welfare of persons with disabilities. They provide legal representation, investigate rights violations, and provide state guardianship for persons with disabilities in Illinois.

They help families navigate special education issues and provide information on guardianship and alternatives to guardianship including Supported Decision Making.
RAISE is a project of SPAN, the Parent Training and Information Center of New Jersey. It is funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration and assists youth and young adults with disabilities and their families. RAISE helps families: better understand vocational rehabilitation and independent living programs; communicate more effectively with transition and rehabilitation personnel; understand the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act related to employment, supported employment, and independent living; and develop an individualized plan for employment.

Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) is a national self-advocacy organization. They are a national board of regional representatives and members from every state in the US. SABE’s mission is to ensure that people with disabilities are treated as equals and that they are given the same decisions, choices, rights, responsibilities, and chances to speak up to empower themselves; opportunities to make new friends, and to learn from their mistakes.

The Alliance is a statewide network of self advocates, advocacy groups and allies in Illinois. They work together to make life better in communities and services better for people with disabilities in Illinois. They want advocates and allies from around the state to speak together with one loud voice. They say “we can do more when we all work together!”
A resource for information on each state’s law related to Supported Decision Making as an alternative to adult guardianship. In Illinois, the Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act authorized the creation of supported decision making agreements and allows a supporter to assist a principal in accessing, collecting, or obtaining information that is relevant to a decision authorized under the supported decision making agreement. It provides that all adults are presumed to be capable of managing their affairs and to have capacity unless otherwise determined by a court.

NTACT provides assistance and information to all stakeholders who can help students and youth with disabilities experience increased enrollment in postsecondary education, graduation, credential attainment, competitive integrated employment and community engagement.

On the Students and Young Adults tab of the PACER website, there is information to help youth develop self-advocacy skills and gain a better understanding of how to more effectively participate to increase success in the classroom, at home, and in the community. By understanding a disability and its impact on everyday life, youth have a better chance of improving their life and accessing the systems of care that serve them.

Since the passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014, policies and practices impacting transition from school to work have evolved and affected the services provided to students with significant disabilities and traditionally underserved populations. To address these changes, the Illinois Center for Transition and Work provides support to special educators, related services personnel, and administrators by providing state-wide training and technical assistance focused on preparing students with significant disabilities for the transition from high school to employment with the goal of improving employment outcomes. They also provide resources that benefit youth and parents.
Equip for Equality’s Transition Project provides free legal services that includes legal advice on transition services, attendance at IEP meetings, assistance with negotiation or mediation, assistance to prevent premature graduation, and special education trainings. This project will help with developing a transition plan for students with disabilities ages 14 1/2 to 22 and getting the school to conduct age-appropriate transition assessments.

_Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands. But like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them you will reach your destiny._

Carl Schutz
Union Army general and American statesman

FMPTIC provides individual support to students 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 or nationally to add to this list.

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