


**Tackling Tricky High School
Issues: Homeschooling
Struggling Teens**
Presentation By:
Faith Berens, M.Ed. HSLDA
Special Needs Consultant
specialneeds@hslida.org



ADHD ADD
Dyslexia
Dysgraphia Autism


Alternative High School Plans- Alternative Routes



3



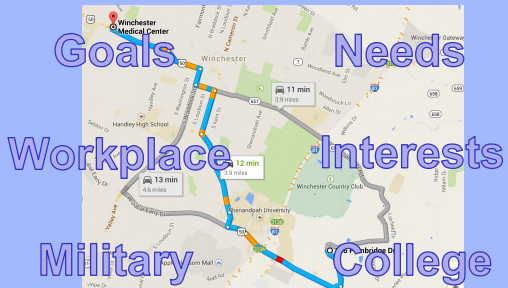
Get Your Game Plan in Place:





State Laws & Graduation Requirements







Begin With the End Goal in Mind

- Basic or General High School program
- Average and Strong College Prep programs
- Rigorous College Prep Plan
- Certificate of Completion
- Certificate of Achievement
- GED





Aim High!

- www.ldadvisory.com
- www.fairtest.org
- www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com
- Eye to Eye, mentoring program for dyslexic students
- Joni and Friends





College Options:

- Community College
- 2-Year Junior College
- College At Home --Distance Learning and Correspondence courses
- 3-year college
- 4-Year College or University





Portfolios

Items to Include...

- Work samples
- Photographs or recordings of student (video projects, audio recordings)
- Other projects
- Record of student's extracurricular activities
- Book or Literature log
- SEP/Transition Plan
- Grades, Attendance
- Additional Testing, reports from Therapists/tutors
- Résumé or résumé transcript





Narrative Transcript Sample

English:

2010-2011 Basic/Practical English course; drafted and submitted letter to editor of local, town newspaper; drafted other business letters, created résumé of extra curricular activities, cover letter, reports, and other practical documents and texts; (3 semester credits, course grade A)

2011-2012 English Composition course (3 semester credits, course grade B)
Poem submitted to *Cabin Life* and VA *Cooperative Living* magazines for student poetry contest

2012-2013 American Literature Course; explored differences and similarities between written and cinematic versions of classic American works of literature to include *Of Mice and Men*, *The Yearling*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, and the *Red Badge of Courage*.

2013-2014 Survey of Children's Literature; wrote an original, short children's story (3 Semester credits, course grade B)

Foreign Language:

2010-2013 American Sign Language (9 semester credits); volunteer experience at church assisting deaf students and providing signing for singing/worship during summer vacation Bible camps.

Mathematics, Business, and Technology:

2010-2011 Business Math/Accounting; (3 semester credits, assisted with book keeping of family, home-based business; opened and managed personal checking and savings account (2010-present)



Transitioning from High School

Military
 Technical School
 Workforce
 Homemaker
 Group/Assisted Living
 College



Course Work

- English, Maths, and Sciences
- History, Civics, Government
- Languages
- World View, Religion, Spiritual
- Electives
- Extra Curricular
- Life Skill and Functional Living
- Employability Skills





Foreign Language Requirement:

- Sometimes waived
- Cultural studies class
- Mission/volunteer work where language was learned/ applied in the field experience





Foreign Language Requirement:

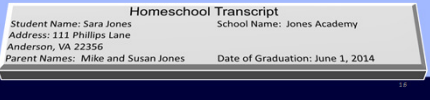
- American Sign Language
- Less frequently used languages such as Russian and Mandarin
- Speaking, writing, and reading should be included





Creating A Transcript:

- Student personal information
- High school academic record
- Course work and grades
- Grade point average (GPA)
- Downloadable samples available at High School website, www.hslida.org/highschool





General Transcript Sample

ACADEMIC RECORD					
SCHOOL YEAR: 2010-2011			SCHOOL YEAR: 2011-2012		
Grade Level:	9		Grade Level:	10	
Course Title	Credits Earned	Final Grade	Course Title	Credits Earned	Final Grade
Basic/Practical English	1	A	English Composition	1	B
Business Math/Accounting	1	B	Consumer Math	1	B
American Sign Language 1	1	B	American Sign Language 2	1	B
U.S. History	1	B	General Science	1	B
P.E.	0.5	B	Government	1	B
Health	0.5	B	Swimming	0.5	A
Piano	1	A	Piano	1	A
Art Appreciation	0.5	A	Art History	1	A
Total Credits: 6.5	GPA: 3.38	Cumulative GPA: 3.30	Total Credits: 7.5	GPA: 3.33	Cumulative GPA: 3.36
SCHOOL YEAR: 2012-2013			SCHOOL YEAR: 2013-2014		
Grade Level:	11		Grade Level:	12	
Course Title	Credits Earned	Final Grade	Course Title	Credits Earned	Final Grade
American Literature	1	B	Survey of Children's Literature	1	B
Algebra 1	1	C	Geometry	1	B
American Sign Language 3	1	B	Mexico Cultural Studies	1	B
Biology	1	B	Marine Biology	1	B
World History	1	B	Careers Class	0.5	B
Soccer	0.5	A	Tae Kwan Do	0.5	A
Music Appreciation	0.5	A	Photography/Visual Arts	0.5	A
			Graphic Design	0.5	A
Total Credits: 6	GPA: 3.00	Cumulative GPA: 3.25	Total Credits: 6	GPA: 3.25	Cumulative GPA: 3.25



Can I give my student credit for work that is not on grade level?

1. IF the student is in the 9th grade or above, and
2. IF the student has been diagnosed as having a learning difficulty which has a documented history, and
3. IF the student is performing at or near HIS OR HER capacity for learning in that subject, and
4. IF the student is showing that this year's work is a progression from last year's work, and
5. IF the student has completed all of the requirements of the course to the satisfaction of the parent, and
6. IF the work (or number of hours) have been documented to your satisfaction (120-180 hours)



Do I Need an IEP?

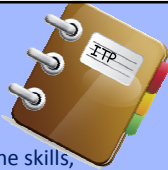
- Consider drafting a SEP
- Begin with student's present levels of performance and lay out skills he will need to be successful, independent, and employable

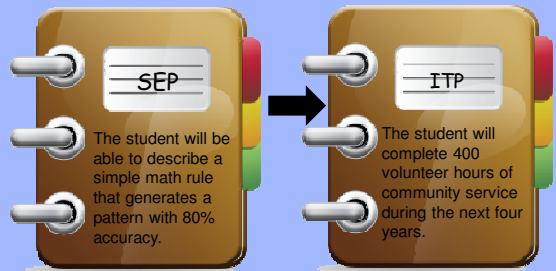




What is a Transition Plan?

- Focuses on Post High School Goals and the skills, curricula, experiences, training, and programs that will be needed to help the student meet those goals
- May include specific curricula/materials, apprenticeship, volunteer work, mentoring program, job shadowing, training in adaptive equipment, researching and exploring career fields, etc.







Accommodations versus Modifications

22



What are accommodations?

- They don't change level of difficulty.
- They should help a student demonstrate what he/she knows.
- They could also be an adjustment of how material is presented.

23



What is a modification?

- A change in the level of difficulty
- A change in the number of problems required to complete
- You will modify for students who have more significant needs

24



How do I get special testing accommodations in place for the ACT/SAT?

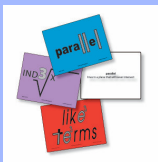
- College Board, www.collegeboard.com;
<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/ssd>
- Start EARLY!
- Documentation Review Board
- Must have a diagnosis/documentated disability
- Required--current (within 5 years) psycho-educational battery of tests by a licensed psychologist or certified educational diagnostician



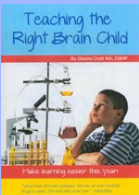


What curriculum is the best for....???

- No perfect or best one size fits all curricula
- Create a group of resources and materials based on child's weaknesses, as well as strengths and interests
- Find materials that will be a good fit with child's preferred learning style(s)
- Meet him where he is – (functioning level)
- Curricula and materials you modify to best fit the unique needs of your child



Right Brain Curricula and Learning Tools:





Reading and Writing Software tools:





Teaching Tips

- Multi-Sensory teaching and materials
- Read Aloud
- Offer accommodations and modifications
- Still need MODELING
- Individualized instruction and guidance
- Teach study and organizational skills





Teaching Strategies:

- Graphic Organizers
- Mind mapping
- Right Brain strategies and tools
- Think Alouds/Think Alongs
- Link motion/movement and music with key words, phrases, and concepts to enhance memory



Frequently Asked Questions

31



Should I use the local school district for evaluation/diagnosis?

- Private is best.
- "Free" isn't always free.
- Possibility for unintended entanglements with the state.
- Special Education Provisions for each state listed on our site.

CAUTION

32



Pitstops:

Power of Attorney/Conservatorship/Guardianship

- At the age of majority (18 in most states)
- Basically establishes who is the controlling entity to make critical decisions such as medical and financial
- Guardianship—individual deemed legally incompetent
- Conservatorship—less restrictive for the adult child but more oversight and record keeping is required
- Power of Attorney- the least restrictive for the person of disability



33



“The most important kind of help that can be provided to any child who struggles with learning challenges is an adult who believes in them totally and unfailingly.”

“Keeping alive a child’s positive vision of herself and her future should be the number-one goal of parents, teachers, and adult mentors.”

(The Mislabeled Child by Brock Eide and Fernette Eide)



Final Encouragement:

- Submit your plans to the Lord, our Master teacher and coach; He will guide and direct you!
- Break those plans down into manageable steps.
- Line up help and support to implement your plans.
- Be flexible and think creatively.
- Remember, you are not alone and you CAN do this!
