

Teachers of Life Skills (TLS) Network

Employment First Professional Development Offerings

Understanding Employment First for RI Education (1 hour)

This is a brief overview of the RI Consent Decree and the impact on expectations for students with ID/D, or those who may be eligible for services through DDD, age 14-22. This session is targeted to building and district administrators and school support staff involved with the ID/D population in special education. The session covers:

- The U.S. Department of Justice and the RI Consent Decree
- RI Employment First
- Career Development Plans and requirements for students

Employment First 101 (Full day)

This full day session targeting new educators and those who are new to the life skills classroom. The training is a synopsis of the TLS sessions offered since the implementation of the Career Development Plan and review the paradigm shift toward greater expectations and employment for students with ID/D; the session covers:

- A brief background history of services for people with ID/D in RI
- The Department of Justice in RI, the RI Consent Decree, and RI Employment First
- Foundations of Person Centered Planning & Process
- RI Secondary Career Development Plan and CDP Quality Rubric
- Linking the IEP, CDP, and IPE

Documenting Community Based Experiences (3 hours)

This session was originally developed as a compliment to the introduction to the RI Career Development Plan and focuses on quantifying the vocational expectation of the CDP and career development for youth with ID/D in the areas of:

- Person Centered practices
- Data keeping & documentation
- Tool selection
- Vocational development and assessment
- Individual Trial Work Experiences (tracking tool)

Scope & Sequence of Career Development: From Awareness to ITWE's (3 hours)

The focus of this training is for educators to identify phases of career development and the indicators related to the process for youth in transition, and to review the tools and methods of documentation for activities and experiences for the Career Development Plan. The training has also been modified for middle school educators to emphasize the students who are beginning a CDP. ***Middle School - Career Development Scope & Sequence: From Awareness to ITWE's (3 hours)***

Linking the CDP, IEP, & IPE (2 hours)

This session utilizes color coded templates of each of the documents to identify sections that are related across the Individualized Education Program, Career Development Plan, and Individual Plan for Employment (ORS). The goal is to create consistency within the documents to reflect the experiences, plans, supports, and outcomes for youth.

Introduction to Person Centered Planning (2 hours)

This session introduces the concept of Person Centered Planning and a brief overview of the most popular tools, including PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope), MAPS (Making Action Plans), & Discovery. The technical assistance session description available to districts and educators is as follows:

Person-centered planning utilizes a number of techniques, with the central premise that any methods used must be reflective of the individual's personal communication mechanisms and assist them to outline their needs, wishes and goals. There is no differentiation between the process used and the output and outcomes of the PCP; instead it pursues social inclusion (e.g., community participation, employment and recreation) through inclusive means; seeing people first, rather than diagnostic labels. This session will outline the principles behind PCP, the four major themes, MAPs, PATH, and Discovery, and the link to the IEP.

PATH: Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope, Training of Trainers (full day)

PATH of Planning Tomorrows with Hope, is a person centered tool to get people into action, and sets the framework for a detailed plan of action that emerges through the process. The session will train educators to facilitate PATH and to train their colleagues.