

# Post Secondary Programs for Students with An IEP:

Is College an Option for My Child?

# Purpose of Presentation

- 1. To discuss entitlement versus eligibility and what does that mean for post secondary options
- 2. To provide information on a variety of different programs that are available
- 3. What needs to occur during the high school years and when
- 4. Accommodations and The IEP

# Getting Started

- The role of the TRANSITION PLAN and the IEP
  - What is the Dream
  - What is the Plan
  - What are the needed Actions
- Post Secondary Outcomes are a part of the TRANSITION PLAN

# Entitlement VERSUS Eligibility

- Entitlement Programs
  - Public School
  - Related Services
  - Transportation
  - Shared information
- Eligibility
  - Based on entrance criteria
  - Aligned to purpose of program
  - Be aware of requirements prior to application
  - Look at other routes to get needed services

# Scopes of Post Secondary Programs

- Different Programs have a different purpose
  - Ex. College of DuPage
    - Associates Degree
    - Certificate Program
    - Vocational Skills Program
    - No credit classes

# Where Do I Find Programs?

- [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

# Life Skills Programs

- Some people with disabilities need more intensive services than a community college, university, or vocational-technical school can offer. Life Skills programs are post-secondary educational programs that help young people learn skills needed for independent living.

These programs are provided in a residential setting and often offer training in:

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- Life skills
- Workplace literacy
- Social skills development
- Vocational and career exploration and training
- Time management
- Banking and budgeting.
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- Independent Living Centers are nonprofit, community-based agencies that help people with disabilities achieve and maintain self-sufficient lives within the community. Services offered include advocacy, information and referral, independent living skills training, and peer counseling.

# Life Skill Programs

- National –Louis University/PACE Program
- Lewis and Clark Community College
- ELSA Program/Elmhurst College
- These programs work with students who need more support for Independent Living and Vocational Skills
- Provide opportunities for inclusion into college communities.



# Additional Information

- HEATH Resource Center, The George Washington University
  - Postsecondary Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.
- <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/>
- Copy in back

# Vocational Skills Program

- College of DuPage
- Our local community college
- Class structure versus ELSA or PACE
- Different tuition base
- Community college experience
- [www.cod.edu/programs/vocational/](http://www.cod.edu/programs/vocational/)

# Community College Options

- College of DuPage
  - Associates Degree Program
  - Certificate Programs
  - Vocational Skills
  - Non credit based
- [www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu)

# COD Need to know

- What is the focus or purpose of attendance
- Compass Test
- Registration
  - Start early
  - Entry level classes fill up early
- Utilize the resources
- Visit the campus often

# Lincoln College

- Primarily a two year program
- Transfer school
- Associates degree
- Music, theater, communications
- ADHD Program/Educational Coach
- Built in supports
- Easily accessible
- [www.lincolncollege.edu](http://www.lincolncollege.edu)

# Four Year Colleges and Universities

- Start early
- Be familiar with entrance requirements and plan with counselors accordingly
- Be familiar with College
- The more specific the focus of study the more involved counselors will be
- Know the resources
  - Transportation
  - Medical/Health
  - Counseling
- Handout in back
- National Center for Learning Disabilities
- <http://www.washington.edu/doit>

# DO-IT Program and Resources

- **Helpful Hints**

- The following helpful hints are offered by participants in DO-IT, most of whom have disabilities and are in college or pursuing careers.
- Research all of your options for college.
- Work with the school you plan on attending ahead of time.
- Seek assistance from student service offices, such as disabled student services, career services, and cooperative education.
- Plan, organize, and evaluate your needs so that support service units can work together to ensure there are no gaps in assistance.
- Communicate with your professors. They are there to help.
- Request accommodations in a timely manner.
- Be realistic about the number of credits you take, especially the first quarter.
- Take some courses that look like fun, as well as more challenging courses.
- Take some time to enjoy the social life on campus. It is a good way to meet new people and make friends.
- Know yourself. Evaluate your strengths, abilities, skills, and values at various times throughout your college experience.

# Admissions

- Start very early
- Tour campus and meet admission counselor
- Alternate admissions programs
- Early enrollment
- Check requirements
- The Personal Essay
- Getting Admitted VS Best Fit



# Scholarships and Financial Aide

- FASFA
- College merit scholarships
  - Be mindful of the GPA
  - ACT prep classes
- Private scholarships
- Start early

# Department of Rehabilitation Services DRS

- Supports post secondary programs for students with a disability
- Community College Initiative
- Lincoln College Support
- Four year College/University programs
- Check eligibility

# What Now

- Gather information
- Develop a detailed **Transition Plan** with the educational team
  - Next Steps Training
- Contact the case manager or vocational coordinator for more information

# Questions

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