

# **NEWS & VIEWS**

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.



One of the many goals of transition planning is to guide students on a path to self-discovery. Students must discover their interests and career passions in a meaningful way. During this complex journey to post-secondary success, educators are discovering new things about their students.

In addition to developing a comprehensive transition plan that is meaningful and effective, a common struggle can be figuring out how to track and monitor student progress and growth on formal assessments. Each state has its own requirements for IEP content, but there are some common elements to include regardless of location.

### These elements include:

- family engagement
- cross-agency collaboration
- community engagement
- & youth development

We were honored to have Carla Herrnberger from Charleroi, PA present on 'Best Practices for Including Transition Discoveries in IEP's" at our <u>June Webinar</u> Wednesday!

#### SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE



Carla has been working in education for over 26 years. She has a wide array of knowledge and expertise from her experience working a Special Education Teacher, a Director of Special Education, and a Cyber School Director & Placement Counselor. Carla currently works as the Director of Special Education at Charleroi Area School District in Charleroi, PA. She is passionate about helping students of all abilities transition into the adult world.

LEARN FROM CARLA



# **TOP 3 STRATEGIES:**



## **DIFFERENTIATE CURRICULUM**

One size does not fit all! Students learn on different levels. Your <u>curriculum & assessments</u> should support everyone. To honor these differences, try implementing these differences in your programs:



Use both formal & informal tools to assess student progress. Utilizing a mixture of informal assessments, like checklists & verbal feedback, along with formal assessments, like test and quizzes, will allow you to gain a better understanding of student comprehension. The tools should match each student's learning level.



Protect student information. If two students on different levels are sitting next to each other, they should still be doing the same activities, even if the instructions are written differently. Never print your students' reading level on any student-facing materials.



Remember that differentiation simply makes the same content more <u>accessible to ALL student populations</u> - it is vital to student success!

<u>Click here</u> to learn more about differentiated transition curriculum options.



# COMBINE CONTENT STANDARDS

Get creative when combining content standards. Teaching multiple content areas in one classroom should be fun and easy. In Carla's district, she combined academic standard instruction with career exploration instruction using the <a href="Project Discovery">Project Discovery</a> greenhouse kit.

Using this career kit, students learned about the science of germination as they grew their own plants from seeds. Once they had a crop, they learned about cooking with the food they grew. This was a fun way to introduce topics like food safety, kitchen safety, and baking math. In this way, science, math, and life skills are woven together in one classroom!

Click here to learn more about Project Discovery career kits.



Students learn about measurement while preparing seeds for planting.



Students can use visual aids to learn new vocabulary relating to Greenhouse Work.



This student is learning hands-on greenhouse skills.



## FIND A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROGRAM

Consistency is key in district-wide transition instruction. Using one quality program from elementary through 18+ transition programs makes data collection, career exploration, and transition easy! Look for a program with these three components:







Evidence-Based Practices

<u>Project Discovery</u> has solutions for students of all ages and levels. With a foundation in research, its <u>proven outcomes and national recognition</u> make it the nation's leading provider of hands-on career exploration and life skills curriculum. Implementation is easy with pre-made lesson plans, differentiated instruction, data collection tools and hands-on manipulatives provided for you in <u>a portable</u> "career kit".



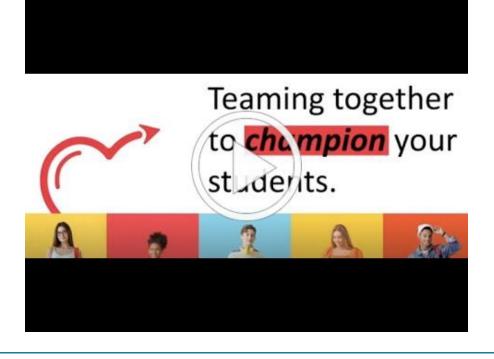


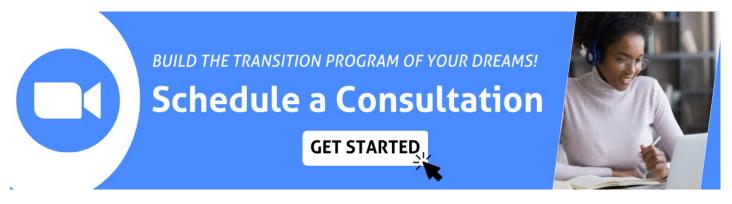
PROJECT DISCOVERY CAREGIVER KIT

PROJECT DISCOVERY GREENHOUSE KIT

**EXPLORE CURRICULUM** 

Too busy to browse our website? Here's what we offer in 1 minute:





### HONOR AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR

The Gary Bates Memorial Award for Excellence in Career Education is awarded annually to an educator who has used Education Associates' Project Discovery or Achieve Life Skills solutions to make a significant, positive impact in students' lives and in the community. It's a great way to honor an outstanding educator in your district! The winner will receive national recognition, a plaque to display in their classroom, and a \$1,000 cash prize. Deadline to apply is September 1, 2023.



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