



TRANSITION AHEAD

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*A bi-monthly newsletter
for teachers and administrators involved
in the special education transition process.*

Contact Information:

Berrien Regional Education
Service Agency
P.O. Box 364
711 St. Joseph Ave.
Berrien Springs, MI
49103-1583
(269) 471-7725
www.berrienresa.org

Assistant Superintendent/
Chief Academic Officer,
Eric Hopstock
eric.hopstock@berrienresa.org

Supervisor of Ancillary Services,
Craig Blasko
craig.blasko@berrienresa.org

Transition Coordinators:
Sandy Asmus
sandra.asmus@berrienresa.org
Amy Hume
amy.hume@berrienresa.org
Cathy Klaer
cathy.klaer@berrienresa.org

Transition Secretary
Susan Roth
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Additional newsletters are also avail-
able.

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ment of Education.*

Dear Friends in Education:

Quite a while ago I was helping my husband put together a desk. We were both using screwdrivers to assemble our sections, and my husband happened to notice how I was struggling to get the job done. He left the room and came back with an automatic screwdriver. I had never used one before and boy, it made the job much easier! Did I still have to do the work (align the materials, make sure the screw was secured)? Yes. Did this tool support me in completing my task? Definitely! That screwdriver has become one of my standby tools when I need to assemble anything. This illustrates how we need to think about technology in the classroom. When we look at a student and see they are struggling, we need to determine if there is a tool that would support them in overcoming their barrier. If so, then we need to have the student try it. If it works for them, then they'll incorporate it as a "standby" tool. If not, then have them try something else that will support them and eventually, they'll have their "standby" tool ready when they need it.

-Barb Meier
Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports Professional Development &
Outreach Coordinator



Caution Ahead: SPPB13 Review

The Transition file review is fast approaching. We should be getting the list of names from the State in March. Usually, we have until the end of the school year to complete the reviews and submit the data through CIMS. Compliance criteria is 100 percent. The **checklist** has not changed, so if you have been using it as a guide for Transition IEPs, we should sail through the review with no problem. If pieces are missing, we will need to write amendments before officially reviewing the IEP. In this manner, we can still record 100 percent compliance. Your Transition Coordinator will begin setting review dates with SEDAC members soon. The reviews should begin just after spring break.

Compliance Corner: SPPB13 Review and SPPB14 Reporting

SPP B13 Transition file review will begin in April, and is projected to be completed by May. Reviews need to be done in a timely manner, to ensure time to file any necessary amendments. You will find the checklist used for the review in the Caution Ahead article above. You may wish to read over your students' IEPs to see if they contain all the elements in the checklist.

SPP B14 reporting involves submitting contact information to the state for every student graduating or aging out from your school. Transition Coordinators can assist with this during the file review if you have the data collected at that time. There is a **form** on the Berrien RESA website under Special Education, Transition Services, Transition Resources.

A Look Down the Road: Transition Crosswalk

Earlier this year, school districts throughout the County were informally surveyed to learn about certificates of completion. The outcome of the survey was that school districts use a variety of curricula and criteria for certificate of completion programs.

On January 9, 2013 a group of 13 teachers, three SEDAC members and RESA’s transition coordinators convened at Berrien RESA to crosswalk transition curriculum with the Common Core State Standards (for students earning a high school diploma) and Common Core Essential Elements (for students earning certificates of completion and attendance). The group met again on January 30, 2013. The goals of these meetings are to create common guidelines for certificates of completion programs, add meaning to certificates of completion and create a dialogue with parents and businesses to describe what a certificate of completion is and how it differs from a high school diploma (and from certificate of attendance). Look for additional information about the Common Core – transition crosswalk an upcoming Transition Ahead.

Click It!

We are continuing to share Transition Resources from Adam Danapolis, Transition Coordinator for Kalamazoo RESA. We got a lot of positive feedback about the Transition and Learning Resources shared in the November-December 2012 issue of Transition Ahead.

Transition Resources:

411 on Disability Disclosure
<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/411-on-disability-disclosure>

Resources for Universal Design for Learning
<https://sites.google.com/site/udlaccess/>

Internet 4 Classrooms
www.internet4classrooms.com

A Life 4 Me
<http://www.alife4me.com>

My Future
www.myfuture.com

Onet Center
<http://online.onetcenter.org>

My Child’s Future
www.mychildsfuture.org

Youth Transition Toolkit
www.tknlyouth.org

American Federation for the Blind
www.afb.org/careerconnect



Cruise Control: Using Assistive Technology

Submitted by Berrien RESA Assistive Technology Specialist, Rosanne Burden

It’s always a great idea to start the new year with something new in your classroom toolbox. Check out the web sites below and see how you might use them to add some new flavor to your teaching.

The website www.symbaloo.com is a visual way to organize your favorite websites to have them at your fingertips anywhere. It resembles a Scrabble® board where you have tiles with your favorite websites on them. It could be a great way for a teacher to organize website resources that you may want your students to use for a special class project or cooperative learning group. The advantages to Symbaloo are that once you create a “web-mix” you never have to type in a web address or scroll through your bookmarks that never seem to be organized! It is visual in nature and you can add new websites to your Symbaloo with one click. Your center box on your Symbaloo page can access Google or Wikipedia to make your searches easy. There is a Symbaloo app available for iPhone® or Android® users. If you are using an iPad® they recommend just using Safari as your browser and going to the website. Look on “You Tube” for some introductory videos. Have fun making your Symbaloo, and they can also be shared with your friends!

Teachers may want to check out this web site at www.polleverywhere.com. It’s a great way to increase student engagement and to also to do “in the moment” assessments of your students’ understanding of a topic. This will allow you to make your class presentations a little more fun and students will enjoy participating with their own smartphones, laptops, or tablets that you may have available. It is free to use with groups of less than 40 people. Poll your students tomorrow to let them give their opinions or show what they know!

REMINDER:

Off to College is accepting nominations for its second cohort. Please nominate freshmen who are interested in continuing their education after high school, who are curious, care about their future, work hard and have a positive attitude. Additional information can be found at www.berrienresa.org/offtocollege or talk to your transition coordinator.

