

Parent Transition Focus Group Questions

A focus group is a facilitated discussion with a small number of people to seek information from on a particular topic. Conducting focus groups is one method for determining opinions, gauging knowledge and experiences, obtaining feedback on existing services, or gathering useful information to better understand unmet needs. Open-ended questions allow participants to share their thoughts/knowledge/experiences freely. Follow-up questions can then be asked by a facilitator to draw out additional information.

- 1) What has high school life been like for your son/daughter so far?
 - The positives?
 - The challenges?
 - The surprises?

- 2) What is your vision for your son's/daughter's life after high school?
 - Employment?
 - Further education?
 - Independent living?
 - Relationships?
 - Community involvement?

- 3) How has this vision developed?
 - Experiences with your son/daughter?
 - Information from teachers/school personnel?
 - Information from other parents?
 - Other sources?

- 4) Do you feel your son/daughter shares the same ideas for his/her future?
What do you think he/she wants in terms of:
 - Employment?
 - Further education?
 - Living situation?
 - Relationships?
 - Community involvement?

- 5) What has your son's/daughter's transition planning been like so far?
- What goals have been developed?
 - How were those developed?
 - Who is implementing plans and how?
 - What has gone well and/or not so well? Why?
- 6) Are there additional steps you feel school staff could be taking to support your son/daughter to achieve goals toward transition to adult life?
- Academic experiences and skills?
 - Work experiences and skills?
 - Social skills?
 - Community involvement and connections?
- 7) Think about the things you and your son/daughter will need to know about as you plan the transition to adult life.
- What information have you already received?
 - Who provided that information?
 - How did they provide that information?
 - What information do you feel you are missing?
 - When would you like to get that information?
 - How would you like to get that information?
- 8) Is there any other type of support that you feel your son/daughter needs to set future goals and work toward accomplishing them?
- From school staff?
 - From the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation?
 - From long term care personnel (Family Care, IRIS, County support)?
- 9) Is there anything else related to the transition process that you would like to share?

