Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

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OCECD has two youth self-determination/ self-advocacy trainings!

Empower your students with the tools they need to shape their future! The Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) has created two self-determination and self-advocacy transition-to-adult-life trainings for youth. They are designed to support middle and high school students with disabilities as they seek to understand their Individualized Education Program (IEP), build critical self-advocacy skills, and begin to express their goals for life after high school. Each three-day training is led by experienced facilitators who create an engaging, supportive environment for learning and growth.

Our It's My Turn (IMT) training introduces students to key concepts of self-determination. These concepts help them gain confidence in understanding their rights, responsibilities, preferences, interests, and personal strengths. Participants learn how to take an active role in their IEP meetings and how to communicate their needs and preferences effectively. Through interactive activities, youth begin exploring what they want for themselves across important life areas, such as living arrangements, community involvement, education, and employment, and will create their vision and goals for their future.

Our Goals, Planning, Success (GPS) training furthers student knowledge and understanding of how to advocate for themselves and plan for their future. This training session guides participants through backwards planning, setting personal goals, identifying resources and supports, and expanding problem solving skills. Through a combination of interactive activities, writing tasks, and planning, youth will continue to explore possibilities for their future and plan for success.

By the end of each training, youth are more knowledgeable and better equipped to confidently express their vision for adulthood. Students of all abilities can participate in either training. The determination of which training is best for your students should be based on their knowledge of, and experience with, their IEP and with self-advocacy. Schools can determine which training would be most helpful to their students based upon the level of their knowledge concerning these topics. Ideally, schools could utilize the trainings as a series by first having our IMT training presented, then bringing OCECD back to provide our GPS training to youth to deepen and expand the learning.

We invite schools to reach out today for a conversation about IMT, GPS, or both and how we can provide these training experiences for your students, which will contribute to, and support, successful transition outcomes.

For more information or to schedule trainings for your students, please contact OCECD at 844-382-5452 or imtgps@ocecd.org.