


**Are You Talking to Me?
Understanding Youth (and their families)
to Effectively Reach Youth**



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www.tnstep.org

June 19, 2019

STEP: Who We Are & What We Do

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc. (STEP) is a statewide not-for-profit established in 1989 serving Tennessee families. We are Tennessee's PTI - Parent Training and Information Center.

WHO do we help?

Families or caregivers in Tennessee with children and youth, birth to 26, with a diagnosed or suspected disability or special healthcare/ mental health need. STEP believes parents and caregivers are a child's best advocate.

- ★ Navigating special education laws
- ★ IEP or 504 Plan review and assistance
- ★ Workshops and in-person training
- ★ Referrals to other agencies
- ★ Life after high school planning
- ★ Training videos and webinars
- ★ Collaboration and communication
- ★ Special education updates

Services are FREE for Tennessee families



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STEP: Who We Are & What We Do

STEP believes in collaborating with schools and agencies to improve results for Tennessee students.

WHAT does STEP offer professionals?

- ★ High quality in-service and professional development
- ★ IDEA and Section 504
- ★ Instructionally appropriate IEPs
- ★ Response to Intervention
- ★ Family engagement
- ★ Postsecondary transition
- ★ Customized needs-based training
- ★ Parent workshops on special education topics
- ★ Youth activities

HOW much does it cost for Professionals?

- ★FREE if parents and caregivers are invited
- ★FREE if funded by grants from the Tennessee Department of Education
- ★Fee-for-service but very cost effective



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Our Mission

STEP's Mission is to serve families of children and youth, young adults, and those who are involved in their lives.

We provide accurate, timely, and relevant information and training related to special education rights, equal access to quality education, and connections to community resources.

We believe that parents and caregivers are their children's best advocates, and that youth with disabilities should be self-advocates.

We know that families and youth who are informed, empowered, and engaged can effectively collaborate as part of a team for services and supports that will lead to improved outcomes and success in life.



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Our Vision

STEP's vision is to ensure a brighter future for children and youth in Tennessee, with an emphasis on those with disabilities, special health care needs, and mental health needs.



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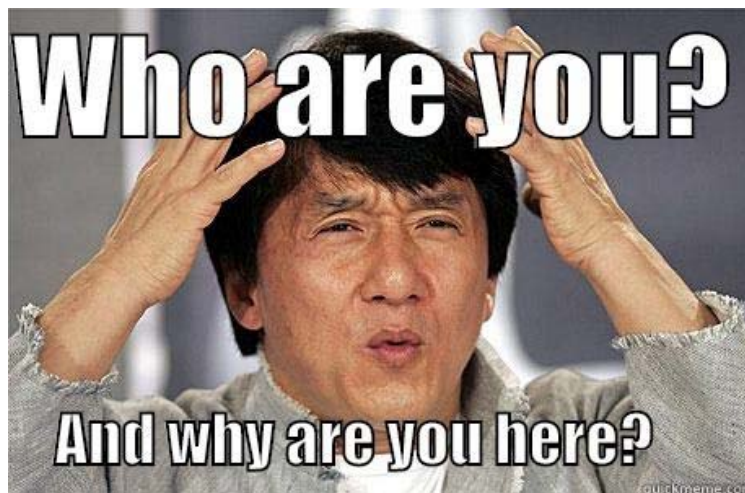
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Welcome and Agenda



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Disclaimer


The general interpretations in this presentation are based upon the opinions and perspectives of the presenter. Attorneys and other agencies may have differing views. Federal and state laws, regulations, and procedures may change over time. Persons should consult the statutes, regulations, and an attorney for purposes of compliance on a specific matter.




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Learning Objectives




Increase understanding of the impacts of poverty, trauma, societal rules, and internal resources on student outcomes using the constructs of Bridges Out of Poverty and gain skills to support successful transitions of students with disabilities who are involved in multiple systems of education, juvenile justice, and social services.




Consider Parent Center policies, practices, and program structures and engage in discussions and activities to identify areas for improvement related to unintended implicit bias and potential barriers to families and youth.




Increase understanding of the "teen brain" as a prerequisite for developing skills, products, and services to effectively reach youth.



Engage in a Budget Activity designed for youth and apply new skills and knowledge to ensuring applicability for all youth, including those who experience adverse impact due to poverty, disability, trauma, or other impacts.



Receive and share **best practices** and **tools** for engaging youth and connecting with distribution audiences currently working with youth and create an Action Plan based on the session training, information, resource to improve and extend reach of their Parent Center to youth and their families.



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WELCOME BACK!

10:20 – 11:45

Youth Brain and Strategies

Partnerships and Planning



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Engaging Youth is A Learned Skill

- What we know about the teen brain
 - **Enjoy risks**
 - **Seeks new experiences**
 - **Responsive to rewards**
 - **Crave “novel” information**
- Teens need an **active role** in planning their future



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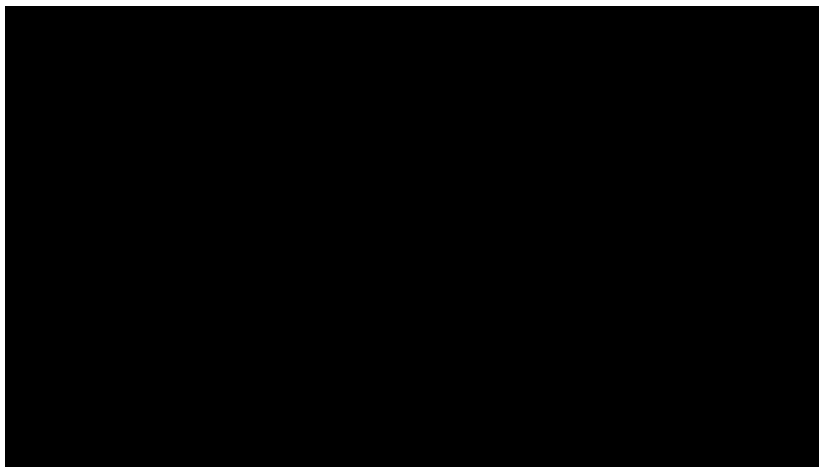
Increase understanding
of the impacts of poverty, trauma,
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resources on student outcomes



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Engaging Youth is A Learned Skill

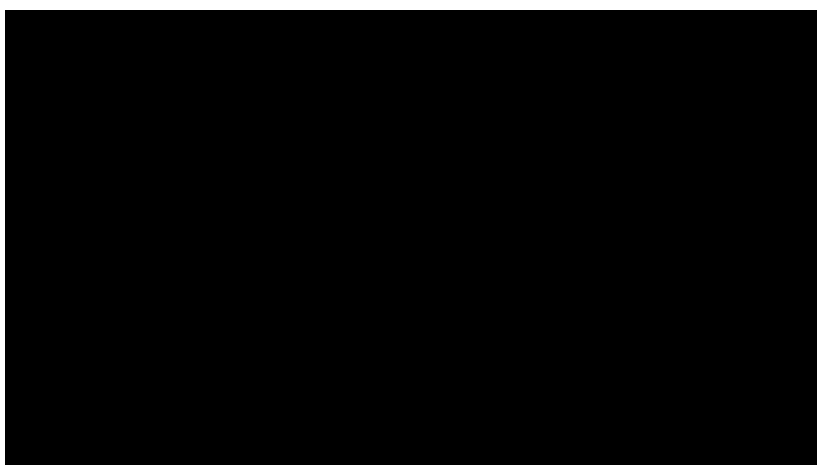


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi57_MH2O8c

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Engaging Youth is A Learned Skill



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwjAAgGi-90>

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Question



What are some barriers your center faces when trying to reach youth??



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Strategies for working with Transition age Students and Families

Students:

- Provide multiple opportunities for students to share what is important "TO" them.
- Expose** students to lots of careers, living options, and educational opportunities so they have a basis to make informed decisions

Families:

- Provide multiple opportunities for families to give input about what they feel is important "FOR" them.
- Inform** families early and often about adult living options and services and give processing time!



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Information Distribution

The difference between providing information
FOR youth and **TO** youth

Both are relevant to our work
Very different approaches



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Budgeting Activity



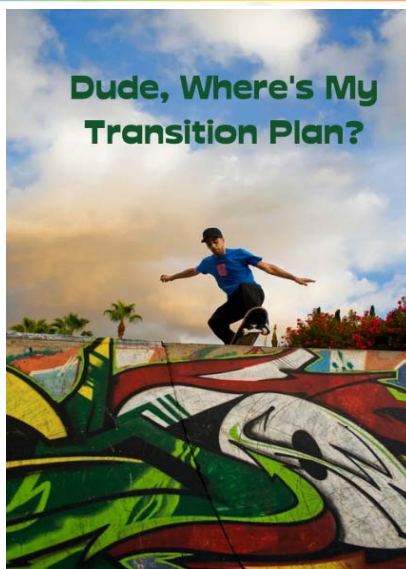
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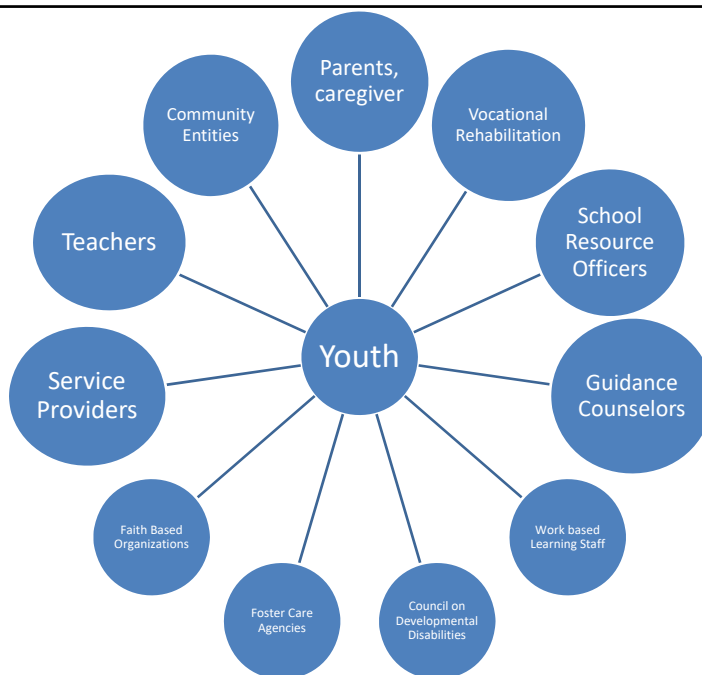
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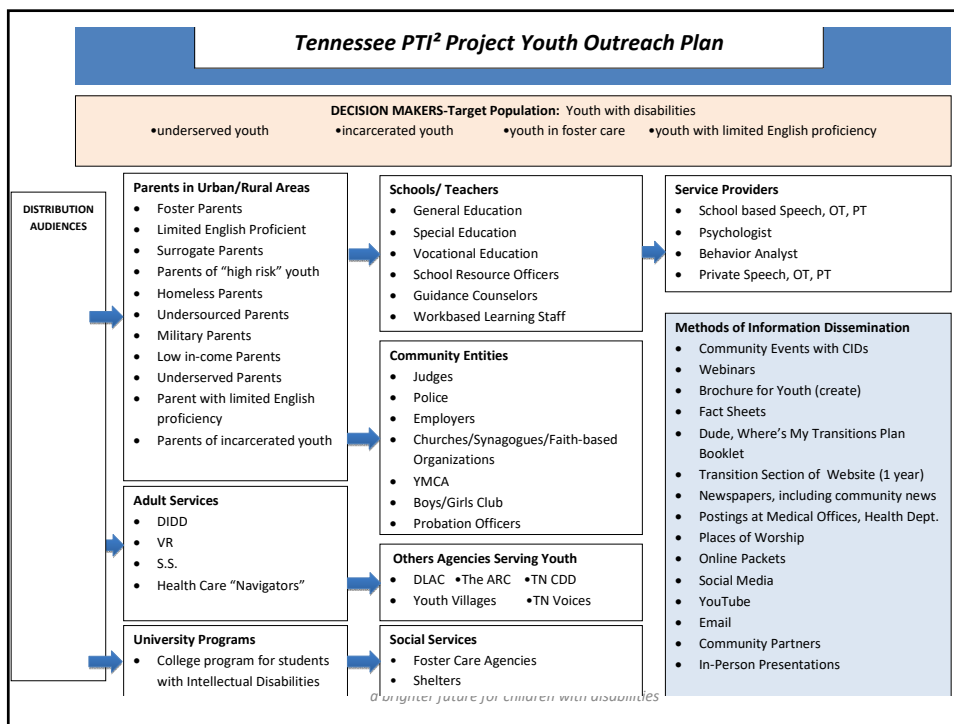
Strategies and Tools Round Robin



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Increasing Your Reach

Engaging a Collaborative Partner Example

Pick an Partner to Engage

VR: Transition School to Work Counselors

1. Get a list from VR of all the TSW counselors and contact information.
2. Develop an email introducing your center, your youth goals, and that you would like to be a resource to assist them in their work with students around employability.
3. Determine if there is a need for specific tools and resources, face-to-face training, "train-the trainer" model, or other opportunity.

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Increasing Your Reach

Product or Service Dissemination Example

Quarterly Dissemination of Information FOR Youth

Top five youth-focused resources for the quarter in an E-News Bulletin

1. Make a list of distribution audiences
2. Select a resource (video, fact sheet, website) (or several) that would be meaningful and relevant to their work.
3. Disseminate and ask for feedback on how they are using the resource and what else would be useful.
4. Count those contacts as providing information FOR youth through those who work with youth.

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YOUR WORK MATTERS



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James Baldwin (writer)

“For these are all our children. We will all profit by, or pay for, whatever they become.”



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What questions do you have?



“Persistence achieves equity in education”

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