

# Insider Information

## On Special Education

November/December 2019

### DVR

The Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a federal/state program designed to assist individuals with disabilities to obtain, maintain, or improve employment. As part of this program, DVR provides assistance to high school students who are in the transition process as well as technical assistance to students, parent(s)/guardian(s), and teachers. DVR can provide other services to students who are eligible for DVR services and not subject to a waiting list for these services. Some of these services include:

- Employment guidance and counseling,
- Assistance in finding and/or keeping a job,
- Assistive technology, and
- Training.

[Planning for Life After High School](#)

### PRESENT LEVEL OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

A key part of your student's IEP is their Present Level of Academic Performance. This section of the IEP document will include information to describe your child's skills and abilities based on services they receive through special education.

The purpose of the Present Level of Academic Performance is to identify the types and amount of special education services your child may need. Statements within the Present Level will include how your child's disability affects their ability to perform within the general education curriculum. During the discussion of the Present Level, the team will talk about the impact of your child's disability and his ability to learn.

Included in the Present Level of Academic Performance section, you will find information about:

- Your child's strengths and weaknesses
- What helps your child learn
- What limits or interferes with your child's learning
- Objective data from current evaluations of your child
- How your child's disability affects his or her ability to be involved and progress in the general education curriculum

## CONSIDERING GUARDIANSHIP

Once your child turns 18, they become an adult. Adult guardianship is the legal process by which an individual assumes the role of decision-maker for an adult who becomes unable to make such decisions for himself/herself. Guardianship can take several forms.

The major functions of a guardian of an adult include:

- Making decisions the person is unable to make for himself or herself, and giving consents the person is not able to give.
- Exercising rights on behalf of the adult that the adult is unable to exercise for himself or herself.
- Acting as an advocate for the adult's best interests.
- Taking action to protect the adult from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, financial exploitation and violation of rights.

For more information on guardianship, click [here](#).

## STARTING EARLY

Help your child become ready for life after High School early. There are simple ways to start in grade school. Here are some ways to get involved and help your child:

- Discuss what work is and what jobs you know about.
- Participate in career days at school.
- Take part in household chores (e.g., sorting laundry, setting the table, cleaning your room, etc.).
- Take part in neighborhood jobs (e.g., delivering the paper, mowing the lawn, shoveling snow, etc.).
- Make decisions and choices about things at home (e.g., what to wear to school) and at school (e.g., what books to borrow from the library).
- Learn basic academic skills (e.g., reading, math, and writing).

# RESOURCES

[CESA 2 Parent Network](#)

[WI FACETS \(Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support, Inc.\)](#)

[A parent's guide to the PTP](#)

[Planning for the Future: Before Age 18](#)

Learn about DVR with this 5 minute video: [Youth in Transitions video](#) [Division of Vocational Rehabilitation \(DVR\)](#)

[Planning for Life After High School](#)

## TIG

The “Transition Improvement Grant” (TIG) is an amazing resource for information related to your child’s transitions within school

Learn more at:

<https://www.witig.org/>



## QUESTIONS

We hope that you find this newsletter filled with helpful information. If you have any further questions or comments, please email:

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