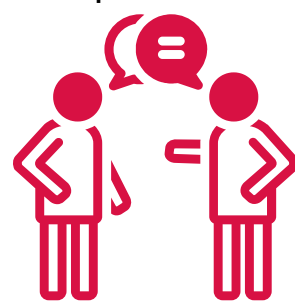


LEADERSHIP, ADVOCACY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

1

SPECIAL NEEDS ADVOCACY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION EDUCATORS

Advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families is a professional responsibility of special education educators. This includes collaboration with various professionals and policymakers to improve how services are provided, documenting evidence of inadequate services or resources, ensuring appropriate placements, and adhering to legislative mandates to ensure a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).



2

SUPPORTING STUDENT SELF-ADVOCACY

Students with disabilities should be aware of the concept of their accommodations, when and where they should receive these accommodations, their importance, and how to ask for them when they not provided. Promotion of self-determination skills are key to increasing post-secondary outcomes and future success

3

TRANSITIONS & COLLABORATIONS

Transition points can be called critical junctures between systems. These include such points in time as:

- birth to preschool: programs such as Head Start and PPCD
- preschool to kindergarten: continued PPCD
- elementary to middle school: Resource of Life Skills Services
- high school to work or post-secondary education: Work-Study programs

Transition calls for intensive collaborative efforts among educational institutions, families, and agencies



4

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION

Educators and schools partnering and collaborating with individuals, organizations within the public and private community sectors, and community or government agencies to ensure FAPE leads to smoother transitions between developmental and educational stages and a more enriching, well-rounded, equitable education experience for students with disabilities and their families.

5

FUNDING SPECIAL PROJECTS

Funding for projects is available in the form of grants from local, state, and federal agencies as well as clubs, businesses, corporate funds, and private organizations.

6

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Community partnerships are best established using the following steps for organizing and managing collaborative interagency projects:

- Convening a group of all stakeholders to assess student and community needs
- Establishing purpose and priorities and study effective means of collaboration
- Thoroughly planning projects
- Implementing the plan with on-going review of plan elements
- Evaluating implementation results and making necessary changes

