STEPSS

The **State Toolkit for Examining Post-School Success** (STEPSS) is a web-based, multi-phase process enabling stakeholders to:

- **Examine** graduation, dropout, secondary transition components of the IEP, and post-school outcomes data;
- **Assess** progress toward meeting targets in each outcome area listed above;
- **Select** predictors of post-school success, and
- **Develop, implement, and evaluate** an action plan designed to improve in-school, secondary transition programs for students with disabilities.

This process is designed to support current state and district continuous improvement initiatives by utilizing secondary transition data available through state data collection systems.

STEPSS was created collaboratively by the National Post-School Outcomes Center (NPSO), the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC), and National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPCSD); national technical assistance and dissemination centers funded through cooperative agreements with the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. It is maintained and supported by the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT).

Purpose: The purpose of STEPSS is to help state and local educators, in partnership with other stakeholders, use a continuous data-based decision-making model with secondary transition data related to graduation, dropout, transition compliance of the IEP, and post-school outcomes to improve in-school transition programs for youth with disabilities.

Audiences: The primary audience for STEPSS is the 60 state education departments across the US, territories and jurisdictions, District of Columbia, and Bureau of Indian Education. Secondary audiences are the local education agencies (i.e., school districts) and stakeholders for those agencies in the states utilizing STEPSS.

Process: The state education agency imports transition related indicator data for graduation, dropout, transition component of the IEP, and post-school outcomes data (i.e., Indicators 1, 2, 13, & 14), Section 618 data (optional), and answers a series of informational questions. These data pre-populate state and district slideshows and the tools linking data with predictors of post-school success for developing an action plan. After uploading data, the SEA grants access to district personnel using STEPSS. Once districts receive the password from the SEA, they are ready to use STEPSS.

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