Transitioning to Adult Services

Curriculum to Increase Understanding of Available Services in Maine Developed for Families at Hampden Academy

Project Partners

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Purpose: Develop a family-centered transition planning program for Hampden Academy students with disabilities based on an existing project for youth with ASD.

Transition: (verb) to make a change from one state, place, or condition to another.

Process for Revising Current Curriculum:

- Review Current Protocol
- Gather Updated Information
- Review New Material from State
- Talk with Invested Partners
- Meet with School Contact
- Revise Plan to Match School
- Develop Program
- Develop Handbook
- Deliver Program

Hampden Academy (Hampden, ME)
Photo source: *Bangor Daily News*, 09/07/12
Retrieved April 14, 2014

In 2012, Maine identified an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) diagnosis for 2,989 individuals enrolled in K-12 special education. Of these, 1,655 students were between the ages of 13 and 20 and more specifically, 17.4% of all students with disabilities at Hampden Academy in Hampden, ME had a diagnosis of ASD. Only 25.3% of Maine students with a disability graduated with a standard diploma in 2012.

***Source*:** Maine Department of Education. Retrieved from http://maine.gov/doe/dataresources/warehouse.html

Obstacles To Effective Transition

- Limited understanding of services available
- Limited work opportunities
- Limited postsecondary education opportunities
- Limited independent housing
- Limited social opportunities
- Societal stigma

Leadership Opportunities

- Improved understanding of the systems and services available in Maine that support persons with a disability in the process of transitioning from high school.
- Ability to evaluate and alter an existing program to better meet the needs of a specific group of individuals in the local community.

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