

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of an open notebook. A pencil is visible on the left side, resting on the page. The notebook pages are filled with cursive handwriting, which is out of focus. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of brown and beige.

High School Diploma's and Special Education



Our Action Plan

- Develop questions to present to NH Districts for special education graduation
- Compile information from the school districts
- Meet with Santina Thibedeau with the Department of Education for information and suggestions
- Develop Brochure for parents to educate and inform
- Have Santina Thibedeau and Paul Leather review information
- Distribute Brochure to local agencies



Our Research Shows us

- Each District has a different Policy established by the school board for graduation
- Each individual is different so there is no universal plan
- Parents are not always informed about their districts policies
- Nashua has announced a plan to have two diplomas
 - One honoring the State's standards of 20 credits
 - One honoring the Districts standards of 27 credits



Compiling Information from School Districts

- Do you give diplomas to students when they are done with High School who are also eligible for special education until 21?
- Do students earn a certificate of completion or regular diploma before transition?
- Have you ever encountered any conflict with other systems within your policy?



Compiling Information from School Districts cont'd

- Would you like to see a common policy across New Hampshire for High School Diplomas and Transitions?
- How are parents & teens educated about student's rights to transition services?



Best Practice

- This has become a “hot topic” nationally however there is no current “best practice” regarding special education and graduation
- There is a national forum beginning to look at this specific issue



Meeting with NH DOE

- Met with Special Education Administrator from the New Hampshire Department of Education
- Recommendation is that each child is an individual and it is best to “think outside of the box”



Brochure

- Received Grant Funding to print and distribute to the community
- Waiting approval for accuracy and content from New Hampshire Department of Education



Irene's Story

- Nate
- 20 years old
- Successful transition plan
- Walked with class



Recommendations

- Start transition early
- Ask special education director about policies around special education and graduation
- Keep a vision
- Complete transition checklist



Question and Answer Period