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Alternative Educational Pathways

Foundations of Transition

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Alternative Educational Pathways

- Identifying and creating **alternative educational pathways** will encourage students to take ownership of their educational experience, to connect their educational experience to their personal goals, to develop personal connections to school and faculty members, and to develop a self-designed pathway towards graduation. Often times to be successful students and facilitators will need to be innovative and resourceful when determining a successful pathway.

Alternative Educational Pathways

While working within a school's established core requirements, together the facilitator and student can determine possible educational alternatives:

- **Is there an internship or job shadow that I can do?**

- **Can I take an online course that isn't offered in my school?**

- **Can I earn college credit with still in high school?**

- **There isn't a course that meets my career goals, can I do research project instead and still earn credit?**

- **Will I be more successful at an alternative high school?**

- **I struggle getting to school in the morning and am failing my first block class. Is there something I can do about this?**

Start with the Mapping Process

The Mapping Process (Future's Planning)

- Mapping is a widely used tool that can also be used to help create alternative educational pathways for students. It helps students answer key questions about themselves in order to help personalize their educational experience.

Who am I?   **Where am I going?**

What do I want?   **How can I find out?**

The Mapping Process

What does it all Mean?

- Is what I am doing in school going to help me achieve my dreams?

- How do I overcome my obstacles?

- How can my education help me?

- Will I need to look outside my current high school to help me achieve my dream?

Collecting Data

Gather more information about the student you are working with:

- Credit Gap Analysis
- Student Progress Tracker

Also,

- I.E.P/504
- FBA
- Academic/vocational/personality assessments

Collecting data (cont.)

- **Credit "Gap" Analysis**: Especially designed for those students at-risk or behind in their credits, this is a snapshot of what credits a student still needs in order to graduate.

- **Individualized Student Progress Tracker**: This form is a good way to identify specific areas of concern for a student. Are there behavioral or environmental issues that need to be addressed in order for the student to be successful?

CREDIT "GAP ANALYSIS"

Student _____   Dat

Academic Area Requirements	# Credits Required for BHS Diploma	Classes Taken		
English	4	_English 9, 10 -American Studies x2	⌣	˥ British Literature
(include Algebra)	-Gen. Math - Pre-Tech - Algebra - Pre Algebra	3	0
(must include Global Studies, Health and Contemporary Issues, US History, Economics and Civics)	-Global Studies - Health - U.S. History - Civics x2	3.5	.5 Civics
Science	2 (must include Physical Science and Biology)	-Physical Science - Biology	2	0
Physical Education	1	- PE	1	0
Fine Arts	½	- Art 1 -Graphic - Art 2 Arts	(1).5	0

Notice the documentation of courses that were taken more than once to successfully obtain credit - An indicator of a problem area.

| Computer Literacy | ½ | | | ◯ |
| Electilves | 11 | | | |

wor - 1

6.5

| | Total | 26 | | 18 | 8 |

Analysis (Where is the gap? How will it be filled?): _____ FULL SCHEDULE Senior Yr !!
Need mostly Electives - perhaps Job Shadows / Internships / CTE Course
May want to consider correspondance course over the
year to give yourself room in your schedule !!

INDIVIDUALIZED STUDENT PROGRESS TRACKER

Student: ███████
Staff member: Mrs. Couture
Date: 7 / 15 / 08
Grade Level: Junior

Item Being Tracked ?	Item Being Tracked	Description or Value	First Semester From: 9 / 4 / 07 To: 1 / 25 / 08	Second Semester From: 1 / 28 / 08 To: 6 / 13 / 08	Comments
✓	Class: English Classes skipped/total possible classes	Total un-excused absences + Tardies	6/90 Failed!!	3/90 Passed!!	Why were you successful 2nd Time?
☐	Class:				
☐					
☐					
✓	...al 9 ...ar	6	3	improved S2 ?
✓	...an 3 ...to =	0	3	✓ in S2 ?
✓	...i 8	2.5	4	6.5 for year
☐					

> Here we notice that there was only one class that posed a concern for this student. She failed her English course S1. The # of skipped classes decreased, but it seems it remained an issue. How will this information help her when taking English her senior year?

> Also notice that her Disciplinary Referrals increased S2 – Why?
> Will it have any impact on her plans for next year?

☑	Employment	Employer: Burger King Job Title: Cashier/ Drive-thru Wages: Minimum wage	Got the Job at the end of Semester 2	Quit in June	why?
☐					
☑		charged w/ assault	Had court hearing - continued	Had court hearing -$600 fine	How will you pay?
☐	Other, describe:				
☐	Other, describe:				
☐	Other, describe:				

> Notice she quit her job in the second semester? Finding out why may also shed some light on why her Discipline Referrals increased here as well.

> She also had to deal with an assault charge and subsequent fine. How will she pay for her fine without a job? How has this impacted her in school? How will this impact her next year?

Problem Items to A[...]

fine? [...] No job how will you pay

inderfere [...] vice? Contact Court- could

in Second English Class. [...] Why was she successful

[...] worked? Good Questions for Mapping!!

Senior Year- keep eye on ODRs and Absences!!!

Collecting Data (cont.)

- Often using data we uncover a host of other behavioral issues and concerns that will ultimately impact a student's educational experience.

- Now what?
  - How can we use this information to help the student achieve their goals?

Developing a Personal Learning Plan

The facilitator can use data to help the student develop their own **Personal Learning Plan (PLP)**.

- The purpose of the PLP is:
    - To encourage students to take ownership of their educational experience,
    - To connect their educational experience to their personal goals
    - To develop personal connections to school and faculty members
    - To develop a self-designed pathway toward graduation

- The PLP can involve:
    - Credit recovery
    - Obtain extra credit
    - Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)
    - Internships and job shadows
    - Ways to make transcript more competitive for post-secondary education goals

PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN

Student: ███████

Staff Member: **Mrs. Couture**

Date: **7 / 16 / 08**

Goal # _1_ What Would I Like To Do, Know and Learn How To Do?	I would like to know more about Criminal Justice Careers		
When Do I Want to Do This?	Senior Year - by 12/31/08		
What Do I Have To Do To Make This Happen?	**What Materials and/or Support Do I Need?**	**Status/Date Achieved**	**Comments**
Online Research	Mrs. Couture - STC Computer Library	In process	Will go to Career cruising.com
Job Shadow	STC List of area agencies	In process	Would like to visit/shadow BPD, Prison, Court System and Youth Alternatives
Informational Interview	Interview Questions. Someone to Interview	~~In process~~ Complete	Would like to interview a correctional officer at the Prison

PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN (CONT.)

Goal # _2_ What Would I Like To Do, Know and Learn How To Do?	I would like to know more about being a Lawyer		
When Do I Want to Do This?	Senior Year – by 12/31/08		
What Do I Have To Do To Make This Happen?	**What Materials and/or Support Do I Need?**	**Status/Date Achieved**	**Comments**
Online Research	Computer STC Library	~~In Process~~ Complete	Want to know how long I have to attend school Visit www.careercruisng.org
Job Shadow	STC Area Lawyer/Firm	In process	Hard to find someone willing – confidentiality issues.
Informational Interview	Questions Lawyer	Done!!	Already did this last year!!
Talk to Guidance about College Requirements	Mr. Skoglund	In Process	Can I even get into a good school?

PERSONAL LEARNING PLAN (CONT.)

Goal # _3__ What Would I Like To Do, Know and Learn How To Do?	I would like to know what other careers are "out there" for me!		
When Do I Want to Do This?	Senior Year – by Graduation		
What Do I Have To Do To Make This Happen?	**What Materials and/or Support Do I Need?**	**Status/Date Achieved**	**Comments**
Examine Course Catalogue to find CTE Courses	Program of Studies Guidance	in process	
Look into online/correspondance courses in Criminal Justice	internet Guidance	in process	Look into VLACS & Keystone High School
Explore Taking courses at WMCC-Berlin	Guidance WMCC	in process	can this fit into my schedule ?
Job Shadow / Internship	STC	in process	look at ALL options

Developing a Personal Learning Plan (cont.)

The student in this example was able to create 3 PLP Goals based on the work that she did with her facilitator. The number of Goals isn't important. What is important is that each goal:

- Be clearly defined

- Be tied to the student's goals/dreams

- Be current – this may mean revisiting them several times throughout the course of a school year and in subsequent years as needed.

- Must come from the student and not the facilitator

Notice that each goal has a number of different ways to carry it out. This too can be updated as new thoughts and ideas emerge.

Developing a Personal Learning Plan (cont.)

This example focuses on career goals, however the following are examples of goals that may also be used to help a student
- become more successful and engaged in their educational experience:

- "I want to be able to find a job so I can help pay for the college I want to attend"

- "I want to get my driver's license"

- "I want to learn how to speak German"

- "I want to get my GED"

- "I want to learn more about the Navy"

Developing a Personal Learning Plan (cont.)

The key to this process is identifying the proper resources and materials to carry out each goal. It provides the student with a clear "ACTION PLAN" in order to meet their goal and ultimately determining their personal educational pathway.

- So what **Educational Alternatives** are available for your students?

Why Educational Alternatives?

Many students find the rigor of public education to be limiting and ultimately fail to connect it to Their own personal goals and ambitions.

We need viable alternatives for our students; alternatives that put students at the center of their learning.

To help meet the challenge of supporting all of our students, educators, community members, parents and other support personnel must all work together to create a complete collaborative approach to identifying, developing, and sustaining alternative educational pathways.

Identifying Alternatives

State Level Support and Initiatives for Alternatives

- *Follow the Child*
- High School Re-design – *Moving from High Schools to Learning Communities*
- New Minimum Standards for School Approval
  - Series of Technical Advisories
    - Competency Based Assessment, ELOs, GED Options, etc.
- Senate Bill 18
- Reduce the Drop-Out Rate to 0% by 2012
- Federal and State Grants
- Ongoing professional development opportunities

Identifying alternatives (cont.)

- It is important to identify what alternatives already exist within your school/district.

- As facilitators it is also important for you to examine what alternatives are "missing" within your school/district.

- Examine how state level supports and initiatives can be implemented at your school.

- Identify the "key players"

Examples of Educational Alternatives

Distance Learning and Credit Recovery Programs

- PLATO Learning
  - Innovative and engaging, the PLATO curriculum gives students a needed alternative and second chance to learn online and be challenged by rigorous, standards-driven content.

- Online Schools/Courses
  - Virtual Learning Academy Charter School www.vlacs.org

- Taking courses in neighboring High Schools

Examples of Educational Alternatives

Alternative High Schools and Programs

- Charter High Schools/Academies
  - North Country Charter Academy - Lancaster
  - Bud Carlson Academy - Rochester
- Online High Schools
  - Virtual Learning Academy Charter School www.vlacs.org
  - Keystone High School www.keystonehighschool.com
  - Therapeutic Residential and Day Programs
  - Eckerd Youth Alternatives
- Job Corps

Examples of Educational Alternatives

Alternative Diploma Options

- G.E.D.

- G.E.D. "Option"
  - A GED prep program within a school or a partnership with an already existing program taught by a certified teacher. Students are allowed to enroll in at least 15 hours/week of GED preparation and instruction while still benefiting from programs in the school like career and technical education courses, internships, and other electives. Susan Randall at 271-3809 or by e-mailing her at srandall@ed.state.nh.us.

- State Diploma
  - Technical Advisory #16 – 20 credits

Examples of educational Alternatives

Getting a Jump Start on Post-Secondary Educational Credits

- Running Start Courses
  - High school students have the opportunity to earn college credit through the Running Start program. This unique concurrent enrollment partnership between local Community Colleges and area high schools offers high school seniors and juniors college-level coursework and college credit for successful completion of coursework.

- College Courses
  - If time and eligibility permit, students are given the opportunity to enroll in courses offered at local college campuses in addition to their course load at their public high school.

Examples of Educational Alternatives

Work-Based Learning/Career and Technical Education Opportunities

- Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs)
  - See Technical Advisory # 12 ,#16 and #17
  - Competency Based Assessment
  - Extended Learning Opportunities allow for the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills of a particular subject through instruction or study outside of the traditional classroom including, but not limited to:

    Independent study   Private instruction

    Performing groups   Internships

    Community service   Apprenticeships

    Online courses

Examples of Educational Alternatives

(ELOs cont.)

- Characteristics of an ELO:
  - Rigor
  - Relevance
  - Relationship
- Must be "Student Centered"
- Must Involve a Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT)
- Must Involve a Community Partner
- Often will need an ELO Coordinator or STC Coordinator
- May be incorporated into any subject matter

Examples of Educational Alternatives

More Career and Technical Education Opportunities

- Jobs for America's Graduate's (JAG)
    - As a sophomore, Junior or Senior students are eligible to apply to be in Jobs for America's Graduates. JAG is a statewide program for youth who seek to overcome obstacles in attaining a high school education and in pursuing career and postsecondary educational interests.
- Career and Technical Educational Courses
    - Does your school/district have a Career and Technical Education Program?
- School-to-Career Services
    - Job Shadows
    - Internships
    - Resume workshops
    - Interview workshops
    - Business partnerships

Things to Consider

- Every School and District is Different
- Investigate what is already in place
- If one of these options isn't available ask "why?"
- Most alternatives need approval from either the principal/guidance counselor/ superintendent/school board.
- How will these alternatives look on a transcript?
- How will they transfer to post-secondary goals?

For More Information:

- Contact your School Guidance Department and administrators

- Explore State Department of Education Website for updates: www.ed.state.nh.us

- High School Re-Design Information:

http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/adultlearning/NewHampshireHighSchoolRedesign.htm