Transition Program 2018-19 (Revision)
Columbia Heights High School

George TL Holt, Ed.D.
Assistant Director of Special Education

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What is Secondary Transition Planning?

• Secondary Transition Planning is the process of preparing students for life after high school.

• It includes planning for postsecondary education or training, employment, and independent living.

• The areas of evaluation and planning must be relevant to the pupil's needs and may include work, recreation and leisure, home living, community participation, and postsecondary training and learning opportunities.
Why the Revision...?

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations state:

- Transition services. Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team, and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include--
  - Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and
  - The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals.

  34 CFR 300.320 (b)

Why the Revision...? (2)

- “... During grade 9, the program must address the student's needs for transition from secondary services to postsecondary education and training, employment, community participation, recreation, and leisure and home living...” Minnesota Statute 125A.08 Subdivision (b)(1).

- The Olmstead Decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has as a major requirement that student with disabilities be in their least restrictive environment and with their peers/cohorts.
Enrollment Trends

• Over the next two school years more than 22 additional students attending the Columbia Heights High School will be in need of a transition program as required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
• In the years following, the number of students could increase dramatically if the current enrollment trends continue.

Transition Planning and IEP Development

Grade 9

• Students in grade 9 at Columbia Heights High School will have transition planning be a part of the IEP process where students with IEPs will have a complete transition plan that would be implemented in grade 10.
• It is important that the transition planning start in the 9th grade to be in compliance with IDEA and Minnesota Statutes and to have plans initiated for the graduation of students in their fourth year of the high school experience.
Transition Planning and IEP Development
Grade 10-11

The major activities in 10th and 11th grade will be:
• Career and job exploration
• Job shadowing
• Vocational Assessments (RISE, Project Search)
• Career programs through Intermediate 916
• Leisure and Home Living
• Money management
• Independent Living – cooking, cleaning, laundry, etc.
• Community exploration and travel – using public transportation
• Recreation and leisure

Transition Planning and IEP Development
Grade 12

The major activities in 12th grade will be to:
• On-the job training and/or supported employment,
• Additional job shadowing
• Postsecondary option exploration
Transition Planning and IEP Development

Staffing

• Transition planning will be implemented in the 2018-19 school year where individual transition plans will be developed as a part of the IEP process.

• Students in grades 10-12 will also be involved in the transition planning and will have some of the program implemented especially in the areas of career exploration, life skills, community integration, etc.

• No additional staff will be required for the implementation of this program for the 2018-19 school year.

Costs

• It is anticipated that additional curriculum, bus passes, food preparation, etc. will add to the costs for this current program.

• An existing classroom at Columbia Heights High School will be re-purposed to have a “home living” environment.

• The classroom already has a kitchen set-up, laundry facilities and will need to have dining room, living room and bedroom furniture for life skills development and home living.
Transition Planning and IEP Development
Cost Savings

• If the transition program meets the goal of having students in transition programming starting in the 10th grade, the number of students who will need Intermediate 916 placements would be significantly less at the end of the three years of programming. It is anticipated that at least 10 students will be completing their program at the Columbia Heights High School. Savings could be $300,000 or more in tuition costs.

• Project Search (On-site work experience programs) is on a tuition basis and has a >90% job placement following the program.

• RISE Vocational Evaluations are at no cost to the Columbia Heights School District except for transportation and support services.

Transition Planning and IEP Development
Site within a Site

• It is recommended that a site within a site be created for the Transition Program so that the costs, personnel, activities can be tracked and add more accountability.

• Students in this program may graduate through the IEP process rather than the traditional credit bearing classes.

• The students may still enroll in typical high school classes.
Transition Planning and IEP Development
Professional Development

• The transition and DCD teacher will need additional training in the areas of transition planning, writing goals, transition assessments and program implementation including life skills.
• There are resources that will provide much of the needed professional development on the Minnesota Department of Education website.

Transition Planning and IEP Development Questions

Questions will be welcomed at this time regarding the revision of the Transition Program at the Columbia Heights High School.