



## **Local Transition Teams in Arkansas**

Right now in Arkansas we have over 30 local transition teams established. They range in size and team members, but all serve the same purpose: to improve post school outcomes for students with disabilities. Members of these teams include, but are not limited to: parents, students, special education teachers, general education teachers, special education supervisors, employers, agency personnel, principals, coaches, high school counselors, etc.

The teams ultimately decide how often they will meet, what the needs and goals are for the group and how they will accomplish those goals. Some teams choose to meet monthly, every other month, or quarterly. It is a good idea to rotate team leaders every so often to ensure that a variety of people are serving and that different perspectives are taken into consideration. At the Arkansas Transition Summit, teams meet to assess needs, set goals and create a plan to achieve those goals. This is a structured process that is facilitated by trained individuals who know how important it is to plan for students' futures. It is also a time to hear from national and state presenters.

Two team representatives also have the opportunity to attend two Cadre meetings each school year. Cadre meetings are two day events where professional development of some type is provided, as well as time to assess team progress, discuss barriers, and plan for future progress. This time is critical for teams to meet and progress with their plans.

Local teams have done some wonderful things in Arkansas. Some have started simply by implementing a particular curriculum into the classroom, such as a self-determination curriculum. Others have begun holding Transition Orientation Nights for Parents; many have started holding Transition/Agency Fairs at the school or district level; still others have started holding Youth Conferences on college campuses. These are just some of the great things going on all because a group of people came together to make improvements in post school outcomes a reality.

These teams would not make progress without good members! We encourage agency representatives to talk to the schools and district within your territory and ask about joining a team, or getting one started if they don't have one! It's a great opportunity for agencies to get involved and have a better understanding of the needs of those individuals they might serve in the near future.

If you would like more information on established teams in your area, contact your transition consultant!