Is My Student College Bound?

When planning for the future, many IEP teams have questions about a student’s readiness or ability to access college. Use these questions to guide the conversation and planning process for determining whether or not your student will be able to be successful in college.

**Academics**
- Is the student mostly in mainstream/general education classes and doing well?
- Is the student close to grade level in reading, math, and writing?
- Has the student met proficiency or passed required standardized tests?
- Has the student taken the Accuplacer or ACT?

**Self-Advocacy**
- Can the student name and describe their disability and its impact on learning?
- Can the student list needed accommodations in an academic setting?
- Does the student ask for help when needed?
- Does the student demonstrate and use problem solving skills?
- Does the student know when and to whom to disclose his/her disability?

**Organization/Self-Management**
- Does the student follow their schedule independently?
- Does the student complete and turn in school work on time?
- Is the student ready to spend a lot of time out of class reading, studying, and doing assignments?
- Does the student stay on task, complete work, and follow along in class without prompting?
- Does the student use and apply critical thinking skills?

**Social Skills**
- Does the student get along well with others? Can they work well in groups?
- Does the student respect that people have differing and varying opinions and perspectives?
- Can the student be flexible about time and schedules?
- Does the student apply self-regulation strategies under stress?
- Can the student manage and inhibit impulses?

Students who demonstrate most of these skills are more likely to have success in college.
Postsecondary experiences are not limited to college. “Post” means after and “secondary” means high school; therefore, postsecondary education and training simply refers to education and training that happens after high school.

What are some postsecondary options?

While college is the most common type of education and training after high school, there are many other options. The purpose of all these programs and training—even college—is to help people get more knowledge and skills in preparation for work or career. The image below shows many different ways students can get education and training to prepare for a career.