
Winter/Spring 2018

Questions from the Field

When a student enrolls in a CTE program, is it considered a *placement* for students with IEPs?

No. CTE is not considered a placement, but students are enrolled in individual CTE courses. Students with IEPs are given the same opportunities as students in the general education curriculum to enroll in a CTE course. After a student has enrolled in a CTE course, and if the student is unable to perform tasks in the course and progress is not being made toward the student's IEP annual goals and objectives, then the IEP team can reconvene to discuss the student's goals.

Should the CTE program be included as part of a student's transition plan?

No. The CTE program should not be a part of the transition plan but could be identified as a course of study or part of the student's educational development plan (EDP). Identifying the course of study in the EDP reinforces that the CTE course(s) is not a placement and should not be written as a placement in the student's IEP.

Charlevoix-Emmet ISD (Char-Em), Petoskey, and Central Lake Robotics students come together to build customized, motorized car for a young boy with a mobility challenge

Char-Em ISD began participating last year in a national program called GoBabyGo!, which converts children's electric cars into custom ride-on cars for youngsters up to age 5 with mobility challenges. One of our staff's occupational therapist learned about the program at a conference, brought it back, and it has been embraced by ISD administration, our families, and communities. Our local high school robotics teams have jumped in fully to help customize the cars for these kids; it has been a heartwarming and a successful collaboration, and one that will continue to grow!

A car was built for a 2-year-old named Jeremiah Nelson, of Central Lake. Jeremiah was able to use the car at the State of the State address delivered by Governor Snyder in January of this year. There are additional videos describing the program. Please click here: [Char-Em School District](#) Also, please visit Char-Em's website, click here: [Char-Em](#)



Jeremiah and his family with Governor Snyder

Submitted Beth Eckerle, Communications Coordinator, Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District

Kent Career Technical Center

Supporting Students with Autism

Kent Career Technical Center (KCTC) was a top 10 National finalist in the *Samsung Solve for Tomorrow* contest. KCTC's *3D Animation and Game Design* class project using virtual reality "social stories" to coach individuals with autism to better understand their environment and how to read social cues is absolutely cutting edge in using technology to impact our local and global community. Developing this concept into a working model has the potential to reduce interactions that lead to bullying, reduce isolation of ASD children, and improve the employability opportunities for these individuals. Kudos to instructor Marc Petz and his 40 students representing 20 different high schools across Kent county. Please click here to view the video: [Kent Career Tech Center](#)

Submitted by John Kraus, Kent Career and Tech Center Principal

Van Buren Technology Center (VBTC)

Jacob Brink and Maria Gallagos

Jacob Brink, who has a visual impairment, shared his amazing talents in the Winter/Spring 2017 issue of the Newsletter. Jacob was in 5th place at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference held last year. Well, Jacob has now been recognized by CISCO. Please click here to view the CISCO video: [Jacob Brink](#)

Maria Gallagos shares her experiences as a student with English as her second language and learning computer networking. Please click here to view the CISCO video: [Maria Gallagos](#)

We are very proud of you, Jacob and Maria! Thank you to your teacher, Denis Huffman, for being an amazing teacher!

Submitted by Denis Huffman, instructor at VBTC

Detroit Public Schools Community District

We love "WOMEN OF TOMORROW MENTOR & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM"

Female students were recruited to participate in a mentoring group at Davis Aerospace Technical High School at Golightly Career & Technical Center in Detroit, Michigan. Many students asked, "What is a mentoring group?" The group encourages girls to focus on their personal well-being to launch their future. The benefits from mentoring include assisting girls with career exploration by helping them imagine their dream job. Sharing experiences makes a big difference in breaking down barriers to being successful in America. Students learn to handle life experiences with the mentors. We transitioned from recruiting girls to join the group, to girls asking, 'when is the next time we meet'?

We love Women of Tomorrow mentoring group because it offers a high-quality mentoring program which includes a career focused field trip, specialized College campus visits, and scholarship opportunities. Our goal for encouraging students to participate aligns with the mentoring groups objectives to decrease the dropout rate and increase the graduation rate. Of course, we've already seen better school attendance and more positive attitudes. By meeting one hour every month with highly successful women gives a girl that extra push she needs to live up to her full potential.



Submitted by Ora C. Smith, Counselor & Chef Mary Hardy, Special Instructor

Claire-Gladwin Regional Education Service District (CGRES D)**Career and Technical Education**

Here at CGRES D our slogan is "CTE: It's Working." One student in our Culinary Arts program is living this motto. She is working at Mid-Michigan Community College's (MMCC) student deli!

After sharing that she wanted to learn how to cook, Kathy Schimansky and her school team, explored and then enrolled her in our Culinary Arts Program. Kathy receives Special Education services under the eligibility of Hearing Impairment. She has a bilateral conductive hearing loss in both ears. In the fall of 2016, as a first year CTE student, Kathy was confident in her ability to participate in the Culinary Arts environment. She quickly demonstrated her skill set to both her CTE instructors and home school staff. Through basic accommodations, such as one on one instruction, consistent routine, monitoring which side you're standing, and Kathy asking questions, her first year in Culinary Arts was a success.

This fall as a second-year student, Kathy's program focus became improving her catering skills and work-based employment. With Kathy's limited access to hearing the surrounding environment, some concerns arose about the best placement. In the middle of October, Kathy began working at "Books and Beans;" our local community college student deli. The deli sells snack items such as pizza, coffee, bottle beverages, sandwiches, salads, and other grab and go items. Kathy is beginning her experience by prepping sandwiches, salads, and fruit cups. This opportunity is allowing Kathy to experience work within the community. She is supervised by MMCC employees and student workers.

Our CTE and Special Education team are supporting Kathy's goal to assist more with customers. She will be receiving some support from our RES D Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consultant as a coach in developing Kathy's skills for how to respond when miscommunication occurs with unfamiliar speakers. This experience will provide Kathy with skills that can be carried with her beyond high school.

Chef Heidi Rocha, Kathy's instructor, says the biggest change she has seen in Kathy is her confidence. Kathy says, "My favorite experience has been the stuff I learned from cooking." Not only has Kathy learned valuable skills from this experience, she has taught us to not allow obstacles to keep anyone from achieving their goals.

We are proud to recognize Kathy as a "CTE: It's Working" student!



Submitted by Katherine Knapp-Wyman and Chef Heidi Rocha at Claire-Gladwin Regional Education Service District, Career and Technical Education Center

Detroit Public Schools Community District Career and Technical Education

SAT Test Prep & Toolkit a huge success!

March 10, 2018, marked the first of a series of sessions offered to CTE students throughout Detroit. The SAT Career Readiness Boot Camp was designed to support students to increase SAT scores. Students were invited to register for the SAT Bootcamp via web link or QR scan code. Over 100 students registered for the event. Transportation and lunch provided for Special Populations students from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children, motivated students to register for the Saturday workshops. Individuals preparing for nontraditional fields and individuals with disabilities also participated. Support staff and program managers from various CTE programs attended and received great information on assisting students with reviewing test questions and analyzing practice test scores.

The SAT prep series, taught by Brandon Celestin of Quametrics, Inc., engaged the students with test tips to assist students in increasing their number of correct answers. Mr. Celestin has a stellar reputation in increasing test scores and reducing test anxiety. Brenda Belcher, Principal Leader, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and Rhonda Turner, Program Supervisor, Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment facilitated sessions on Career Readiness. Students were excited to complete a communication style assessment and share about their communication style. Facilitators created a welcoming environment for students and led a role play activity. After completing the entire SAT Test Prep series, students will receive a toolkit including a TI-84 Graphing Calculator and a resource-filled Flash Drive.



Submitted by Ora C. Smith

Special Populations Counselor, Golightly Career & Technical Center

Upcoming Conferences

Michigan Occupational Special Populations (MOSPA) Conference, May 2-4-2018, Boyne Mountain Resort and Conference Center, Boyne Falls, Michigan. Click here for more information: [MOSPA](#)

Tonya Ward Singer in partnership with Michigan Association for Bilingual Education, presents "Raise EL Literacy in Every Classroom Every Day," May 9, 2018, Wayne County Community College, District Downriver Campus, Taylor, Michigan. Click here for registration information: [Raise EL Literacy](#)

Helpful Resources

Teaching Strategies for Reading and Math for Students with Learning Disabilities. Click here: [Reading and Math Strategies](#)

Reading Comprehension Strategies for English Language Learners. Click here: [Reading Comprehension Strategies](#)

Styles and Strategies for Helping Struggling Learners Overcome Common Learning Difficulties. Click here: [Helping Learners Overcome Learning Difficulties](#)

A Guide to Understanding Special Education – Published by Wayne RESA

This helpful guide has topics such as understanding students with disabilities and each specific disability, understanding the contents of the IEP, and many other helpful topics. Click here: [Understanding Special Education](#)

If you have information that you think would be beneficial to others, please contact:

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