



Office of Administration
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITY
301 West High Street, Room 840 * Post Office Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor
Yvonne Wright
Chair
Robert Honan
Executive Director

Governor's Council on Disability Education Position Paper

It is the position of the Governor's Council on Disability to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of the education process.

- Guiding Principles for all students with disabilities:
 - Inclusiveness in all aspects of school and community.
 - Interagency Collaboration to advance rights of students.
 - Access to full curriculum.
 - Promote principles of self-determination is critical to school success.
 - Student-led Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.
 - Self-awareness of strengths, preferences, interests and needs for students and parents.
 - An accessible vocational training track.
 - Community- Based Instruction.
 - Emphasis on student success, integrity, and continuous improvement.
 - Safe and bully-free environments.
 - Equity that provides equal opportunities.
 - Prepare students with disabilities for the future by providing information on effective strategies on how to be independent.
 - Transition is a shared interagency responsibility between the Missouri Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB), and Department of Higher Education (DHE).
 - There should be shared interagency collaboration between all private post-secondary educational institutions and technical schools.
 - Effective transition planning in the IEP culminating in a smooth transition from school to adult life by addressing gaps in skills needed to access post-secondary goals.
 - The high national unemployment rate of persons with disabilities (10.4%), compared to 5.4% of persons without disabilities, is unacceptable. (Data source: US Dept. of Labor, August 25, 2015). The Bureau of Labor Statistics states that 5.9% without disabilities and 12.5% with disabilities (June 16, 2015).

*Keeping the Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Affiliated with the Office of Disability Employment Policy*

- Recommendations:
 - Learn from other states' best practices.
 - Improve on educational achievements of students with disabilities while still in school.
 - Schools and students need to show accountability for graduating with minimum core competencies/grade level expectations.
 - Eliminate lack of resources in higher education and technical school training.

Published: November 2015