



**NCSET**

Creating Opportunities for  
Youth With Disabilities to Achieve  
Successful Futures

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## Announcements

The latest news and information from around the country.

### Legislative Announcements

#### President Bush Signs New Assistive Technology Act of 2004

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

The new Assistive Technology Act of 2004 that President Bush signed into law on October 25, 2004 makes several changes to the previous Act, including authorizing additional resources so each state will receive \$410,000 minimum for the state program and \$50,000 minimum for protection and advocacy services. The Act also aligns more closely with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Olmstead decision by requiring states to focus on students with disabilities receiving transition services as well as adults with disabilities maintaining or transitioning to community living. In search field enter: H.R. 4278.

### Calls to Participate

#### Disability Social History Project Seeks Readers' Suggestions and Participation

[http://www.disabilityhistory.org/dshp\\_about.html](http://www.disabilityhistory.org/dshp_about.html)

The Disability Social History Project is a community history project that offers a space for people with disabilities to reclaim their history and determine how to define themselves and their struggles. They encourage suggestions about what you would like to see become part of the Project, including heroes with disabilities, important events in disability history, and resources.

#### Kids As Self Advocates Seeking National Advisory Board Members

<http://www.fvkasa.org/>

Kids As Self Advocates (KASA), a Project of Family Voices, shares information for young people with disabilities and chronic health conditions and is seeking National Advisory Board Members. Eligible members include youth with a disability and/or health care needs between 13-21 years old; who can make a two-year commitment; with leadership experience; who are enthusiastic about leadership and advocacy; who are interested in learning about disability history, culture, and rights; who can work as a team member; and who are interested in understanding how a project works. Application deadline: December 22, 2004.

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## The Resource Zone

### NCSET Resources

#### Access to the General Education Curriculum: Findings from the National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) (November 2004)

*NCSET Teleconference Transcript*

[http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2004\\_11.asp](http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2004_11.asp)

The National Longitudinal Transition Study-2 (NLTS2) follows a nationally representative sample of more than 11,000 students who were 13-16 years old and receiving special education services in 7th grade or above in December 2000. This study is following these youth until 2010 in an effort to understand their educational, vocational, social, and personal experiences and achievements as they transition from adolescence to early adulthood. Comparisons of NLTS2 data with those from the original NLTS, begun in 1987, will

illuminate the ways in which the experiences of youth with disabilities have changed in the past decade. During this November 16, 2004 NCSET teleconference, Dr. Lynn Newman, co-director of the study, presented findings related to the instruction of secondary school students with disabilities in general education academic classes, including instructional practices, student participation in classroom activities, and accommodations and supports provided. Dr. Newman also described changes over time in general education course-taking of secondary school students with disabilities.

**Improving Academic Performance and Access to the General Curriculum for Secondary Youth with Disabilities** (July 2004)  
*NCSET Institute Proceeding*

[http://www.ncset.org/institutes/proceedings/2004\\_07\\_13.asp](http://www.ncset.org/institutes/proceedings/2004_07_13.asp)

Proceedings of the Capacity Building Institute (CBI) held July 10, 2004 in Arlington, VA have been posted on the NCSET Web site. This CBI was held in conjunction with the OSEP Research and Leadership Project Directors Conference. It provided researchers with an opportunity to dialogue around: 1) research results related to improving academic performance of and access to the general curriculum for youth with disabilities, 2) methodological issues in research related to academic performance of and access to the general curriculum for youth with disabilities, and 3) research-based interventions that improve academic performance and increase access to the general curriculum.

**Key Provisions on Transition: IDEA 1997 Compared to H.R. 1350 (IDEA 2004)** (December 2004)

*Report*

<http://www.ncset.org/publications/related/ideatransition.asp>

On December 3, 2004, President George W. Bush signed H.R. 1350 (IDEA 2004) into law. This NCSET document identifies the major changes between IDEA 1997 and H.R. 1350 (IDEA 2004) concerning transition services.

**School-Based Strategies for Supporting Student Development of Self-Determination Skills in the Context of Leadership and Standards-Based Reform** (April 2004)

*NCSET Institute Proceeding*

[http://www.ncset.org/institutes/proceedings/2004\\_04\\_13.asp](http://www.ncset.org/institutes/proceedings/2004_04_13.asp)

Proceedings of the Capacity Building Institute (CBI) held April 13, 2004 in New Orleans, LA have been posted on the NCSET Web site. This CBI was held in conjunction with the Council for Exceptional Children 2004 Convention and Expo. Participants learned practical strategies and plans for increasing student self-determination. Leading researchers and practitioners provided insights into how to use self-determination to increase academic achievement and how schools, districts, and states can scale-up implementation of self-directed learning.

## Other National Resources

**2004 National Organization on Disability/Harris Survey of Americans with Disabilities** (June 2004)

*Report*

[http://www.at508.com/040624\\_national\\_press\\_club.cfm](http://www.at508.com/040624_national_press_club.cfm)

The 2004 Harris Survey on disability trends, commissioned by the National Organization on Disability, surveyed people with disabilities. Findings showed that Americans with disabilities are at a critical disadvantage compared to other Americans in 10 key areas of life, including employment, poverty, high school dropout rates, social life, life satisfaction, job discrimination, severity of disability, and future health and well-being. Web video also available.

**Building Strong Families 2004 Study** (November 2004)

*Report*

<http://www.search-institute.org/families/bsf2004.html>

The Abundant Assets Alliance has produced the second study in an ongoing collaboration between the YMCA of the U.S.A. and the Search Institute on strong families and parenting. It examines family strengths; challenges such as job loss, negative societal values, and difficulty making connections with others in the community; and resources for African American and Latino/Latina families. The main point these parents made was that they wanted to spend more time with their children. Available in PDF (24 pages).

**Children's Mental Health Resource Kit: Promoting Children's Mental Health Screens and Assessments**

*Toolkit*

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/childwelfare/mentalhealth/resourcekit/default.aspx>

The Children's Defense Fund, an organization that works to reduce the number of neglected, sick, uneducated, and poor children in the U.S. through research, public education campaigns, budget and policy advocacy, and coalition building, has released "The Children's Mental Health Resource Kit: Promoting Children's Mental Health Screens and Assessments". The Resource Kit is designed to help promote access to and increase availability of mental health screens and assessments for children through Medicaid and state Children's Health Insurance Programs. Available in PDF (759 KB, 42 pages).

**Fundraising Ideas** (2002)

*Web Page*

<http://www.reacheverychild.com/feature/fundraisers.html>

The Reach Every Child Web site produced by Horace Mann Educated Financial Solutions provides traditional and non-traditional strategies for simple and successful school fundraising and links to additional fundraising ideas. Some strategies include holding a fun fair, auction, golf tournament, walkathon, toy exchange, coin drive, number raffle, bingo night, street concert by the school band, or book sale; and selling candy, cake, discount books, magazine subscriptions, or a taste of "your school name" with food from parents.

**Innovations in Education: Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification** (November 2004)

*Report*

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/tchrqual/recruit/altroutes/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement has produced a guide which shares practical advice on alternative routes to teacher certification, gives concrete examples from six alternative route programs, and organizes lessons learned

from the programs into four action areas: recruit widely and select carefully, design a coherent and flexible program, provide extensive support, and engage in continuous improvement. Each program highlighted has an established track record of three or more years and uses promising practices to train teachers, such as tailored, field-based programming and strong mentor support.

#### **Making Experiential Education Accessible for Students with Disabilities** (November 2004)

*Brief*

[http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article\\_id=130](http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=130)

This brief from the Institute for Community Inclusion provides basic disability awareness information, suggests ways to create welcoming career offices, and offers ideas to increase access to experiential education (i.e., mentoring, internships, and job shadowing). Experiential education can create a bridge to graduation and employment for college students with disabilities, who tend to enter college with less work experience and have a harder time finding jobs than their non-disabled peers upon graduation. This requires college professionals to consider access issues for all students. Available in PDF (6 pages).

#### **No Child Left Behind Pocket Guide** (October 2004)

*Resource Guide*

<http://www.ed.gov/nclb/overview/intro/guide/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's new pocket guide, "A Guide to Education and No Child Left Behind," provides information and budget facts regarding key aspects of "No Child Left Behind," including improving the academic achievement of the economically disadvantaged; training and recruiting highly qualified teachers and principals; language instruction for Limited English Proficient and immigrant students; giving parents choices; creating innovative education programs; making the education system accountable and responsive to local needs; helping all children learn to read; and helping children with disabilities. Available in PDF (33 pages).

#### **Righting the Americans with Disabilities Act** (December 2004)

*Report*

[http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2004/pdf/righting\\_ada.pdf](http://www.ncd.gov/newsroom/publications/2004/pdf/righting_ada.pdf)

The National Council on Disability (NCD) has researched the implementation, effectiveness, and impact of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). NCD has conducted an in-depth analysis of the Supreme Court's interpretations of the ADA and has determined that several of them depart from the core principles and objectives of the ADA; and it provides an analysis of the problematic rulings, describes the resulting impact on people with disabilities, and offers legislative proposals designed to restore the ADA to its original intent. Available in PDF (800 KB, 157 pages).

#### **Successful Magnet Schools** (September 2004)

*Book*

<http://www.ed.gov/admns/comm/choice/magnet/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Education's "Innovations in Education" book series recently released its fourth volume, "Successful Magnet Schools." The book identifies six school districts whose successful magnet programs offer a range of contexts, experiences, and perspectives. Educators and advocates are encouraged to order bulk copies if needed for professional development, school board meetings, training purposes, etc. Available in PDF (68 pages).

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## **What's Happening**

### **NCSET Events**

#### **National Standards for Secondary Education and Transition for All Youth**

*Teleconference Call*

*January 12, 2004*

*1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Central)*

[http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2005\\_01.asp](http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2005_01.asp)

Over the past year, national organizations and experts representing general education, special education, workforce development, youth development, families, and others have developed a set of national standards of effective practice and quality indicators to guide the improvement of secondary education and transition for all youth. The National Leadership Summit on Improving Results for Youth--scheduled for June 14-15, 2005--will be organized around the five areas which comprise these standards and indicators: schooling, career preparatory experiences, youth development/youth leadership, family involvement, and connecting activities. This teleconference call will describe the evolution of these standards and indicators; discuss how they are being introduced to states; and explain their influence on state team planning for the Summit. To participate in this teleconference, dial 1-703-639-1362 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator.

#### **Using Interagency Transition Teams to Achieve Successful Transition**

*Teleconference Call*

*December 1, 2004*

*1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (Central)*

[http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2004\\_12.asp](http://www.ncset.org/teleconferences/transcripts/2004_12.asp)

This teleconference will discuss the value of forming and using interagency transition teams at the state, district, and local school level as a means of supporting youth with disabilities to link with and obtain positive post-school outcomes. Dr. Robert Stodden of the Center on Disability Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa will discuss steps used to formulate an interagency transition team, typical team membership, characteristics of an effective team, and typical issues addressed by teams. This discussion will include plans for preparing and supporting State Interagency Transition Teams for work at the NCSET-sponsored National Leadership Summit scheduled for June 2005. To participate, dial 1-703-639-1362 a few minutes before the call begins, and refer to the "NCSET Teleconference Call" if asked by the operator.

### **Other National Events**

### **A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base**

Conference

March 6, 2005 - March 9, 2005

Tampa, FL

<http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/institute/pubs/pdf/cfs/rtc/18thproceedings/proctoc.htm>

Researchers, evaluators, administrators, policymakers, advocates, and family members interested in applied practical systems-of-care research should attend. Empirical research on systems of care that promote the emotional and behavioral wellbeing of children and their families will be covered. Topics will include: service system assessment, Center for Mental Health Services, dissemination and implementation, policy development and implementation, treatment effectiveness, partnership effectiveness, educational outcomes in systems of care, effectiveness of child welfare/foster care programs, and effects of financing methods. Sponsored by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health.

### **The Second International Conference on Positive Behavior Support**

Conference

March 10, 2005 - March 12, 2005

Tampa, FL

<http://www.apbs.org/Archives/Conferences/secondconference/confanncmnt.htm>

The Association for Positive Behavior Support will host this conference to provide families, professionals, support providers, researchers, and school personnel with the latest knowledge and resources on behavior support. Presentations will discuss skills, research findings in positive behavior supports, skill-building on school-wide behavior support, measuring outcomes, early intervention, and other practical applications. Presentation topics will include early intervention, school-wide applications, district/state, individual schools, family support, personnel preparation, community applications, individual intervention strategies, teaming/collaboration, functional assessment, mental health, classroom management, and technology.

### **2005 CEC Convention and Expo**

Conference

April 6, 2005 - April 9, 2005

Baltimore, MD

<http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ConventionExpo/HighlightsfromLastConvention/default.htm>

Participants in the 2005 Convention and Expo of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) will gain proven educational strategies for children with disabilities and the gifted and get the latest news on IDEA and the implementation of NCLB. Sessions on the following topics and more will be offered: instructional methods and strategies, Progress Monitoring, Autism spectrum disorders, preparing students for transition, and positive and safe learning environments. For more information, visit the CEC Web site or call 1-888-CEC-SPED (232-7733). [^ Top of Page ^](#)

## **Get Wired!**

### **Web Sites**

#### **Gates to Adventure! Transition to Post Secondary Training for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students**

<http://outcome.mcpc.org/GatesToAdventure/>

Gates to Adventure is a Web site that provides youth who are deaf and hard of hearing a way to plan for their future. Information for students, job rehabilitation program participants, vocational rehabilitation clients, teachers, school counselors, vocational rehabilitation specialists, and parents is provided.

#### **National Center for Learning Disabilities**

<http://www.nclld.org/>

The National Center for Learning Disabilities (NCLD) works to ensure that the nation's 15 million children, adolescence, and adults with learning disabilities have every opportunity to succeed in school, work, and life. Its Web site provides information to parents, professionals, and individuals with learning disabilities, promotes research and programs to foster effective learning, and advocates for policies to protect and strengthen educational rights and opportunities. The site includes an information zone, resources for people living with learning disabilities, and resources for writing legislatures to learn about the latest policy news.

#### **National Dropout Prevention Centers**

<http://www.dropoutprevention.org/>

This site, produced by the National Dropout Prevention Center/Network and the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities, with funding from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs, provides knowledge and promotes networking for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and families to increase opportunities for youth in at-risk situations to receive the quality education and services necessary to successfully graduate from high school.

#### **Nobody Left Behind: Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Mobility Impairments**

<http://www.nobodyleftbehind2.org/>

This Web site follows a study funded by the Research and Training Center on Independent Living at the University of Kansas that tried to determine if disaster plans and emergency response systems include survival needs for persons with disabilities; identify the morbidity and mortality of persons with mobility impairments; assess any post-disaster changes to the needs of persons with mobility impairments; and develop Best Practices models to assist in disaster plans and emergency responses to meet the needs of persons with mobility impairments.

#### **SchoolsMovingUp**

<http://www.schoolsmovingup.net/>

This Web site sponsored by WestEd, an agency committed to improving learning at all stages of life, helps schools and districts address

the immense challenge of raising student achievement in low-performing schools. It offers practitioners the knowledge and expertise they need to make sound decisions and take tangible action in their school reform efforts. It provides resources, services, and tools that education professionals nationwide can use in their work with low-performing schools.

### **StateData.info**

<http://www.statedata.info/>

The StateData Web site, a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts at Boston, generates customized charts of state, national, and individual disability data. In addition, accessible text versions are automatically created by the charting software. The site currently includes data sets from state mental retardation/developmental disabilities agencies, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Social Security Administration, and the U.S. Department of Labor.

### **What Do You Like? Exploring Career Information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics**

<http://www.bls.gov/k12/>

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has created a Web site that provides students examples of careers that pertain to the topics of reading, building and fixing things, music and arts, sports, managing money, nature, social studies, science, math, law, and helping people. Each career example provides information about what the job is like, how to prepare for this career, how much the job pays, the number of jobs available, the future of the career, and where to find more information.

## **Listservs**

### **Kaiser Family Foundation Profile**

<http://profile.kff.org/profile/>

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on major health care issues and providing facts and analysis for policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. By creating a personal profile on their Web site, you can receive weekly e-mails about new Foundation reports, surveys, issue briefs, charts, and fact sheets; summaries of the latest news in health policy with links to the original articles e-mailed daily and weekly; and notification of new Webcasts and state-level data updates.

### **Kids As Self Advocates Listserv**

<http://www.fvkasa.org/>

Kids As Self-Advocates (KASA) offers a listserv for e-mails on issues of young people with disabilities and chronic health conditions through Yahoo Groups. Listserv members can organize messages, chats, files, photos, links, database, polls, members, and a personal calendar. Listserv subscription information is located at the bottom of this page on the right-hand side.

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## **Funding Forecast**

### **Additional Funding and Award Opportunities**

#### **Cable Awards for Leaders in Learning**

<http://awards.ciconline.org/LeadersInLearningAwards/default.htm>

Cable's Leaders in Learning Awards honor policymakers, educators, community leaders, and administrators who demonstrate vision, innovation, action, and transformation in K-12 education and informal learning settings such as after-school programs. Award winners will have taken a leadership role to bring about change and achieve results. Their achievements will reflect best practices in education within these four categories: General Excellence, Pushing the Envelope, Media Literacy, and Policymaker. Award winners will receive a three day all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC; a \$3,000 prize; and the chance to be part of a community of innovators. Application deadline: January 31, 2005.

#### **Grants for National Youth Service Day**

[http://www.ysa.org/awards/award\\_grant.cfm](http://www.ysa.org/awards/award_grant.cfm)

Youth Service America recently announced the availability of hundreds of grants to implement community service projects surrounding National Youth Service Day (NYSD), April 15-17, 2005. Currently available grants to support NYSD projects include: Constitutional Rights Foundation and Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago Grants; Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America "STOP the Violence" Program Mini-Grants; Phi Alpha Delta's Public Service Center Mini-Grants to Pre-Law and Law School Chapters; and National Youth Court Center at the America Probation and Parole Association Mini-Grants. Application deadline: December 31, 2004.

#### **Hispanic Scholarship Fund**

<http://www.hsf.net/default.aspx>

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) is the nation's leading organization supporting Hispanic higher education. HSF's vision is to strengthen America by advancing college education among Hispanic Americans. During its 29-year history, HSF has awarded more than 68,000 scholarships in excess of \$144 million to Hispanic students. Many scholarship opportunities are available for high school seniors, college undergraduates, community college transfer students, Gates Millennium scholars, and graduate students.

### **HP Technology for Teaching 2005 Grant Program**

[http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech\\_teaching/index.html](http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/grants/us/programs/tech_teaching/index.html)

HP will award grants totaling \$5 million in cash and HP equipment over two years to K-12 public schools and two- and four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. and Puerto Rico to support K-16 educators who are using mobile technology in innovative ways and to identify K-12 schools and higher education institutions that HP might support with future grants. Based on the outcomes of the projects funded through the initiative in 2005, HP will offer grant recipients the opportunity to receive higher-value grants in 2006. Online application will begin January 10, 2005, with proposals due February 15, 2005.

### **Lucent Global Science Scholars Competition**

<http://www.iie.org/programs/lucent/>

The Lucent Global Science Scholars Program is an annual academic competition sponsored by the Lucent Technologies Foundation for students who demonstrate excellence in the sciences and plan to pursue a career in information and communications technologies. Award recipients receive a \$5,000 award and spend a week in Murray Hill, NJ, at Lucent Technologies and Bell Labs with researchers, scientists, and fellow Global Science Scholars. When an appropriate placement can be found, Global Science Scholars are offered internships at a Bell Labs or Lucent Technologies facility in their home country. Application deadline: February 28, 2005.

### **Mini-Grant Project from Pay It Forward Foundation**

<http://payitforwardfoundation.org/educators/grant.html>

Pay it Forward mini-grants are designed to fund service-oriented projects identified by children to benefit their schools, neighborhoods, or greater communities. Pay It Forward projects should also include learning goals for the youth participants. Teachers, principals, other school personnel, youth leaders, individual youth, and student or community youth groups with an adult sponsor are encouraged to submit applications. Mini-grants between \$50 and \$500 are available to school, church, and community-based youth groups for service activities of all types. Applications accepted the 15th of every month between September and June.

### **National School and Business Partnerships Award**

<http://www.corpschoolpartners.org/award.shtml>

The Council for Corporate and School Partnerships offers the National School and Business Partnerships Award to recognize partnerships between K-12 public schools and/or school districts and businesses. Awardees receive national recognition and \$10,000 to support their partnership. Award criteria include: the strength of the partnership's foundation, the success of the partnership's implementation, the partnership's sustainability, and the partners' ability to present a clear evaluation of the partnership's impact. Application deadline: January 28, 2005.

### **NEA Foundation Grants: Innovation, and Learning & Leadership**

<http://www.neafoundation.org/grants.htm>

The National Education Association Foundation for the Improvement of Education provides \$2,000 and \$5,000 grants to public school teachers and education support professionals and faculty and staff in public higher education institutions for the purpose of engaging in high-quality professional development experiences or implementing project-based learning and innovations that raise student achievement. Eligible applicants include individuals, and groups for collegial study, such as study groups or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff on new assignment. Application deadline: February 1, 2005.

### **Toyota TAPESTRY Grants**

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/>

The Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 mini-grants of \$2,500 each to K-12 science teachers with proposals for innovative science projects that can be implemented over a year. Proposals should demonstrate creativity and vision and model a novel way of presenting science. All K-12 teachers of science residing in the U.S. or its territories are eligible to apply, as are elementary teachers who teach science in a self-contained classroom setting or as teaching specialists. Application deadline: January 19, 2005.

### **Volvo Butterfly Award for Child Heroes**

<http://www.volvoforlifeawards.com/cgi-bin/iowa/english/home/index.html>

Volvo is currently accepting nominations for the 3rd Annual Butterfly Award that honors a child who has shown extraordinary conscience, care, and character in helping others. The award is a \$25,000 contribution to a charity selected by the winning child and his/her family. The winning child and his/her family are also invited to attend the Volvo for Life Awards ceremony in New York City. Eligibility requirements: U.S. citizenship or legal residency; any age; achievements occurring during the 2004 calendar year. Nomination deadline: January 10, 2005.

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## **End of Issue**

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### **Excerpting E-News**

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### **Contributing to E-News**

If you have information on new products, resources, funding opportunities, and conferences or training events and want to contribute these to a future E-News issue, please e-mail the information to [ncset@umn.edu](mailto:ncset@umn.edu) or see [Suggest an Item for E-News](#) for more information.

**Purpose of the Listserv**

E-News features resources, activities, products, and funding information from around the country. E-News is dedicated to assisting youth, parents, educators, service providers, and administrators to stay connected and informed about secondary education and transition issues.

**To Subscribe or Unsubscribe**

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(include your phone number and the city and state where you live) at:**

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition  
Institute on Community Integration  
University of Minnesota  
6 Pattee Hall  
150 Pillsbury Drive SE  
Minneapolis MN 55455  
[ncset@umn.edu](mailto:ncset@umn.edu)  
612-624-2097 (phone)  
612-624-9344 (fax)

**We will reply to you as soon as we can. Thank you for your interest!**

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