

MEET JOHN

Pre-Reading Question

- *How can students finance their postsecondary education?*

John is a 14-year-old with cerebral palsy. He receives the majority of his instruction in the special education classroom and he is working towards a special education diploma. John's postsecondary education and training goal is to enroll in an inclusive higher education program.

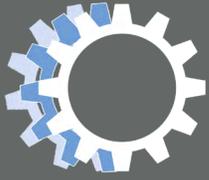
One day, a group of high school special education teachers set up a postsecondary education fair by bringing in several representatives from postsecondary education programs to talk to the students. Each student had the opportunity to approach the different tables where the representatives were set up with information about their programs. John excitedly talked to each one of the program representatives and brought home flyers from all of the programs. Feeling very positive, John gave the flyers to his parents when he got home from school. His parents shared his enthusiasm until they saw the cost of each program. John felt disappointed when his parents informed him that they would not be able to afford sending him to an inclusive higher education program.

What's the Problem?

The representatives from the program didn't explain that there are several financial aid opportunities that John's family could pursue in order to finance John's education. Furthermore, this information was not included on any of the flyers that John brought home. It was not communicated that inclusive higher education programs often accept financial aid such as federal financial aid as well as state and private scholarships.

What's the Solution?

John's teacher realized that the program representatives had not distributed any flyers or brochures about financial aid at their respective programs, so she made sure to get that information from each representative after the event. She shared the information she received with all of the parents, and directed them to many useful websites, while also encouraging them to call the financial aid office of the programs their student was interested in applying to. As John's parents went through the materials, and explored the many financial aid opportunities available for students attending inclusive higher education programs, they felt a sense of relief. John's parents happily shared this news with John who was thrilled that there was still a chance to pursue his dream of attending an inclusive higher education program.



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

Post-Reading Questions

- *How can you incorporate information about financial aid into conversations about postsecondary education with your students and their families?*