**Supporting Strong Transitions for Youth with Disabilities:**

**Free Technical Assistance for Tennessee Districts**

**Provided by Vanderbilt University**

Preparing students well for life after high school is a primary goal for every Tennessee school district. Yet supporting strong transitions for students with disabilities can be challenging. Too many students with intellectual, emotional, learning, and other disabilities still struggle to successfully navigate pathways to college or career.

*TransitionTennessee* ([www.transitiontn.org](http://www.transitiontn.org)) at ***Vanderbilt University*** is offering ***free*** ***technical assistance*** to support districts striving to improve the quality and impact of their transition services for youth with disabilities. Through funding from the Tennessee Department of Education, we are working closely with a small number of districts each year to implement practical ways of strengthening the transition services they deliver to their students. We are currently supporting ten districts across the state. We are now accepting applications to provide technical assistance and coaching, beginning in the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year.

**Who can apply?**

Any public school district in Tennessee can apply. We hope to work with a wide range of districts—from all regions of the state. We anticipate some districts will want to build upon transition services that are already strong; other districts may want more intensive support to start new practices.

**What supports will we provide?**

Although our support and coaching will be individualized for each district, we anticipate:

* Assisting districts to reflect on their strengths and gaps in current programming
* Helping develop a district-wide plan for strengthening their transition programming
* Using both new and existing data to inform and evaluate the district’s movements
* Identifying ways of engaging families, employers, community groups, and adult agencies as transition partners
* Offering training and resources related to best practices in transition
* Featuring the innovative practices you are implementing as examples to other districts

**What is your commitment?**

To support participating districts most effectively, we ask that you:

* Establish a core team (including a building administrator) who will commit to meeting and communicating periodically with us
* Share relevant district, school, and student data with our team
* Partner with us to host one “community conversation” event to gather input from a diverse group of school and community stakeholders on key strengths and needs related to the district’s transition services
* Allow us to collect feedback and program information from educators and other stakeholders to inform the support we provide (e.g., surveys, interviews)
* Invite educators and other appropriate staff to complete relevant modules on the *TransitionTennessee* website (e.g., transition assessment, pathways to employment, pathways to postsecondary education)
* Work with us to evaluate changes resulting from this technical assistance

**How does our district apply?**

Applications for the 2019-2020 school year must be submitted by September 30, 2019. To give you a preview of the application, the list of application questions and required information is included on the next page. However, all applications *must* be submitted electronically through [www.transitiontn.org/technicalassistance](http://www.transitiontn.org/technicalassistance). As we are only able to support a limited number of districts each year so be sure to apply early and answer all questions fully! We anticipate notifying applicants by October 25, 2019.

**How can I learn more?**

More information can be found at www.transitiontn.org/ta. For specific questions, contact Erin Maves at erin.a.maves@vanderbilt.edu or 615-936-5899.

**Application for Technical Assistance through Transition Tennessee**

**\*PREVIEW OF ONLINE APPLICATION\***

Complete this application online at: www.transitiontn.org/ta

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| School District: |  |
| Name of Contact Person: |  |
| Telephone: |  |
| E-mail address: |  |

**Application Questions**

1. What do you see as the primary strengths of your current transition services for students with disabilities?
2. What areas of improvement do you feel are most pressing?
3. What types of support from our team do you anticipate will be most helpful?
4. What do you see as the biggest challenges to strengthening transition services in your district?
5. What steps (if any) have you recently made to *reflect on* or *improve* yourtransition services?
6. What additional questions (if any) do you have about this technical assistance?
7. Attach a letter of support from a di confirming the willingness of the district to participate.
8. List the names, roles, and emails of individuals (including a building administrator) who will comprise your core team.
9. How many middle schools and high schools are in your district?
10. Will you commit to the following aspects of this partnership (see list on announcement)?

**Team Members (we recommend having about 8-10 members):**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Position in District**\*Please include a building level administrator | **Email address** | **Telephone #** |
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