

WEBCAST TAKEAWAYS

DECISION MAKING IN AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING

SUMMARY

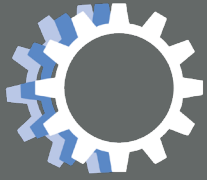
This month, our webcast featured Lauren Percy, the public policy director with the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities, Carrie Hobbs Guiden, executive director at the ARC Tennessee, and Nathan Walsh, a staff attorney at Disability Rights Tennessee. They spoke about Supported Decision Making in the context of an educational setting. Additionally, they address how to support students and their families during the transition age and what it means when a student reaches the age of majority. See below for highlights from their webcast!

Supported Decision Making: approaches that protect the person's right to remain the final decision-maker, even as they need and get support

- ❑ Tips for Practicing Supported Decision Making Within the Classroom
 - Get to know every student to know what accommodations will help them most
 - Talk with families about appropriate and available accommodations
 - Provide students with opportunities to practice making as many decisions as possible
- ❑ Why Practice Supported Decision Making?
 - Research has shown it is a BEST PRACTICE
 - Correlated with better physical and mental health
 - Leads to better community integration and employment outcomes
- ❑ Things to Remember in the Context of Special Education
 - Make decisions WITH the student, not FOR the student
 - Not every mistake is the end of the world
 - Making decisions will help students feel more prepared for employment and future goals

Age of Majority: Students become their own legal decision maker at age 18, but students with disabilities can stay in school until they're 22. IDEA require notification to be sent to parents as students near the age of 18, which is a cause of concern and worry for some parents.

- ❑ Tips to Address Age of Majority During Transition
 - Parents are still able to attend the IEP meeting
 - Students can invite anyone to the meeting and they are likely to continue wanting their parent there
 - Work with parents to empower the student
 - Prepare materials if the student chooses not to bring parents so their voice is still heard at the meeting



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

LEARN MORE

CHECK
OUT THESE
RESOURCES

[ACLU Supported Decision Making Library](#)

Resource library that provides resources on supported decision making. Includes general information, a video library, tools for implementation, sample supported decision making agreements, legal information, and links to other supported decision making projects.

[Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)

Includes summaries of information about supported decision making in one class

[Transition Tennessee Supported Decision Making Resources](#)

This article provides an up-to date description of the transition assessment process. It reviews what to assess, how to select appropriate assessments, and how to analyze and use assessment data