

Research and Reports: Transitions From Senior Year

The following three resources are summarized:

- *CTE'S Role in Secondary-Postsecondary Transitions*
- *Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment*
- *Evaluating the Impact of Interventions That Promote Successful Transitions From High School*

CTE's Role in Secondary-Postsecondary Transitions

Association for Career and Technical Education. (2007). *CTE's role in secondary-postsecondary transitions* (Issue Brief). Alexandria, VA: Author. Retrieved September 8, 2008, from <http://www.aucd.net/docs/Transitions.pdf>

This brief describes current concerns with low secondary-completion rates, low levels of student preparedness for postsecondary opportunities, and low postsecondary-completion rates. It describes how career and technical education (CTE) programs can provide solutions to these problems. The brief summarizes three main CTE programs:

- Dual enrollment
- Tech Prep
- Early College High Schools and Middle College High Schools

Examples of programs from Arkansas, West Virginia, and North Carolina are included.

Preparing High School Students for Successful Transitions to Postsecondary Education and Employment

Bangser, M. (2008). *Preparing high school students for successful transitions to postsecondary education and employment* (Issue Brief). Washington, DC: National High School Center. Retrieved September 8, 2008, from http://www.betterhighschools.org/docs/PreparingHSStudentsforTransition_073108.pdf

This issue brief describes a variety of implementation lessons and choices. It suggests that preliminary program-design issues for transition programs should include the following questions:

- When should the intervention start?
- Should broad-based or targeted approaches be used?
- How comprehensive should the intervention be?

The issues to consider in relation to curriculum and instruction include the following:

- High expectations and rigor
- Alignment
- Professional development for teachers
- Integration of academic and technical content

Supports to consider that would complement academic programs include the following:

- Providing early and ongoing counseling for students and for their families.
- Using assessment tools to diagnose struggling students early.
- Addressing career awareness and workplace readiness.

For a successful transition program, schools and districts should consider collaborations with postsecondary institutions, employers, and economic development agencies. The success of intervention programs and program accountability can be determined using data collected through these collaborations.

Financing for intervention programs should consider the following:

- Relative cost
- Financial incentives to foster a K–16 system
- Different goals that multiple interests may have in the intervention
- Coverage for a range of costs
- Structures for scholarship assistance
- Investments for quality implementation

The brief concludes with a section on successful transitions for students with disabilities.

Evaluating the Impact of Interventions That Promote Successful Transitions From High School

Bangser, M. (2008). *Evaluating the impact of interventions that promote successful transitions from high school* (Research Brief). Washington, DC: National High School Center. Retrieved September 8, 2008, from http://www.betterhighschools.org/docs/ResearchBrief_ImpactofInterventions_073108.pdf

This brief discusses the challenges to evaluating the effectiveness of programs that focus on student transitions from high school. It reminds readers that evaluations should distinguish between how much of the outcome was determined by the intervention and how much was determined by other factors. The brief also notes the importance of disaggregating outcomes to see how interventions affects different subgroups. Finally, it summarizes the effects of the evaluations of five programs:

- Career Academies
- Upward Bound
- Career Beginnings
- Quantum Opportunities Program
- Math-Enhanced Learning in Career and Technical Education