

About Minnesota's Youth in Transition Framework

Minnesota's Youth in Transition Framework defines quality transition planning, empowering professionals across the state to work together toward the same outcomes for youth.

IMPROVED YOUTH OUTCOMES

The Framework defines the improved youth outcomes all transition professionals in Minnesota are working toward:

- Best Life**
Youth use self-determination and leadership skills to envision and advocate for their best life.
- In(ter)dependent Living**
Youth successfully manage adult life within their community.
- Employment**
Youth find competitive, integrated work they enjoy.
- Postsecondary Education and Training**
Youth access postsecondary education and training options and obtain industry-recognized credentials.



- 1 Guiding Principles**
The beliefs that guide our work at the system, agency and professional level.
- 2 Learning Expectations**
The topics all youth in transition in Minnesota should explore as they prepare for their best adult lives.
- 3 Shared Practices**
Collective ways of working that can help create consistent and improved experiences for youth, families and professionals.

THREE KEY ELEMENTS

The Framework is comprised of three key elements: guiding principles, learning expectations, and shared practices. These elements create the foundation for effective transition planning and programming.

Learn more about the Framework and its key elements on the next page ›



The Framework's key elements set a vision for how our work can improve the lives of youth and their families

All transition professionals are asked to align their work* to the Framework and strengthen their partnerships and delivery of high-quality transition programs and services.

Working together, guided by the key elements of the Framework, we can anticipate the following outcomes:

- Consistent and equitable transition planning for youth and families
- Clear expectations and more streamlined planning experiences
- Clarity and efficiency for transition professionals
- Improved youth outcomes
- A stronger and more agile system for all

**Transition professionals are asked to adopt the Framework into their programs and services such as IEPs, 504 plans, waiver case management, Pre-ETS, employment plans, and more.*

1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The guiding principles are beliefs that serve as the foundation for what we do and how we do it. The six defined statements below guide decisions at the system, agency and professional level:

- 1. The youth is at the center of transition planning.**
- 2. Families play a key role in successful transition outcomes.**
- 3. Transition planning should start early in a youth's life.**
- 4. High expectations matter.**
- 5. Strong partnerships support a smoother transition to adulthood.**
- 6. Success is measured by improved youth outcomes.**

2 LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

The learning expectations define the topics all youth in transition should explore. They are organized into four categories:

- 1. My best life topics:** self-awareness, developing a vision, advocating, planning for a best life, and more.
- 2. In(ter)dependent living topics:** daily life, community living, money, healthy living, safety, recreation, advocacy and supports, and more.
- 3. Employment topics:** career exploration, work-based learning, benefits planning, managing the job process, and more.
- 4. Postsecondary education and training topics:** postsecondary options, enrollment, financial aid, skills for success, and more.

3 SHARED PRACTICES

The shared practices, processes and tools are organized under three collective ways of working:

- 1. Person-centered practices** are based on the core principle that the person is the expert in their own life and, as such, should drive the planning process.
- 2. Collaborative partnerships** support efficient and effective work by professionals, a more streamlined process for families, and better outcomes for youth.
- 3. The youth planning process** When working with youth and families, all interagency support teams are encouraged to use the youth planning process to ensure consistent, high-quality transition planning and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).



LEARN MORE: Visit the online Youth in Transition Toolkit to find resources and practical hands-on tools to educate yourself, engage families, and support youth at disabilityhubmn.org/YIT-toolkit