



*Engaged Parents + Shared Vision =
Greater Student Outcomes*

What Brings Me Here?



“by families for families”



Empowering Oregon Families in Pursuit of a Whole Life



Expand Awareness

- Disability is natural
- Self-determination
- High expectations



Grow Community

- Access activities
- Engage neighborhoods
- Develop relationships



Equip Families

- Prepare and inform
- Support and advise
- Provide resources

FACT is your one-stop resource!

We are able to support you with:

- Parent trainings and workshops
- Professional in-services
- Community building activities
- Person-centered planning tools
- Information and resources
- A support line to answer questions and help families prepare to participate in their child's education and IEP



Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education

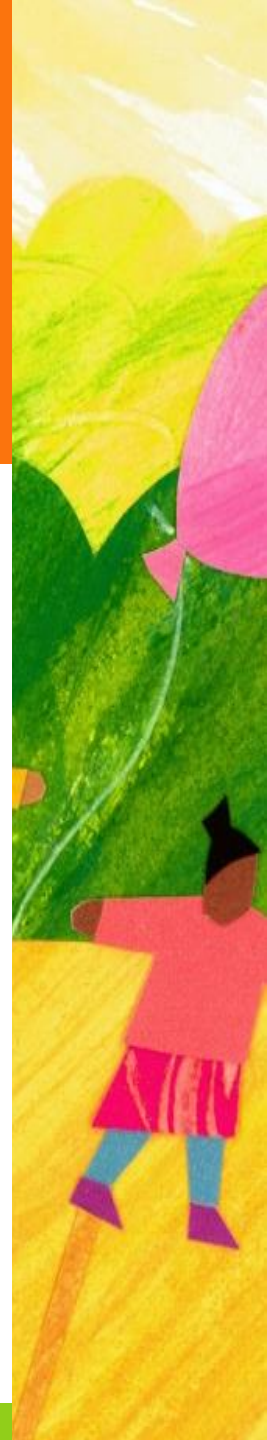


DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



What We'll Talk About

- A day in my shoes
- Shift happens!
- Vision as a driver of change
- Meaningful parent participation
- Tips and tools
- Questions & answers



A day in the life...



Special Education is...

Part of a whole life, one that's messy, busy, awesome, scary, wonderful, but also, **full of possibility!**



Shift happens!



Change over time...

Philosophical — Disability Rights Movement underway

National — Rehab Act (1973), EHA PL94-142 (1975), ADA (1990), IDEA “FAPE in LRE”(1990), Olmstead case “integration mandate”(1999), NCLB (2002), CMS HCBS (2014), ESSA (2015)

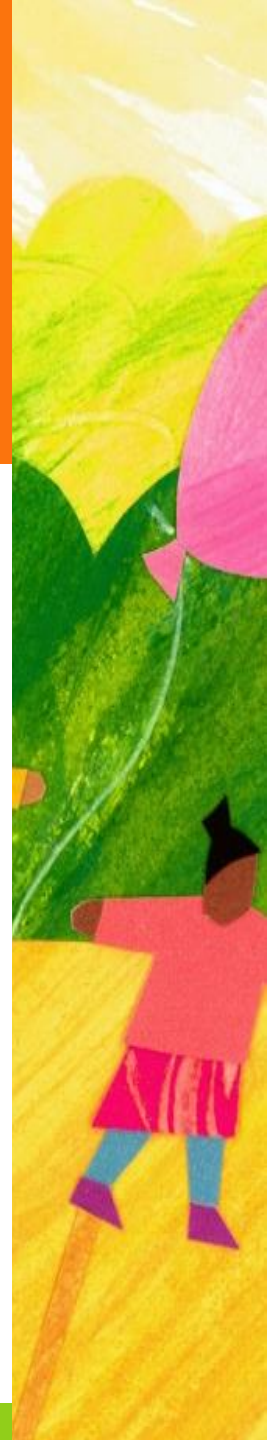
State — Fairview Training Center (2000), Staley Lawsuit (2001), Employment First (2008), Eastern Oregon Training Center (2009), Lane v Brown Settlement Agreement (2015), Diploma options (2009- extended diploma) (2014- “substantially similar) (2017- SB 20)

Practice — Universal Design for Learning, Co-teaching, SWIFT, dual licensure programs, increased use of assistive technology in accessing curriculum

Disability doesn't mean what it used to...

“fix the person”

“adapt the environment”



Disability today...

- Person-first
- High expectations
- Dignity of risk
- Trusting humanity
- Self-determination
- Whole lives!

...supported by policy and best practice, we establish a solid foundation for better student outcomes when we embrace these changes!



The Big Picture...

The intent of IDEA, and thereby a child's IEP, is to ***prepare for life beyond school.***

Further Education

Employment

Independent Living



*Family Engagement 101:
Meaningful Parent Participation*



What does meaningful participation look like?



Parents are Critical Members of the Team

- Subject matter expert
- 17/7
- Vision for the future



IDEA emphasis on meaningful participation!

IDEA **Guarantees** Parents the Opportunity to Participate

- Ask questions
- Contribute
- Understand
- Reschedule
- Disagree
- Clarify
- Request
- Share
- **Be heard...be valued...be an expert!**



Parent Participation is a Win-Win!

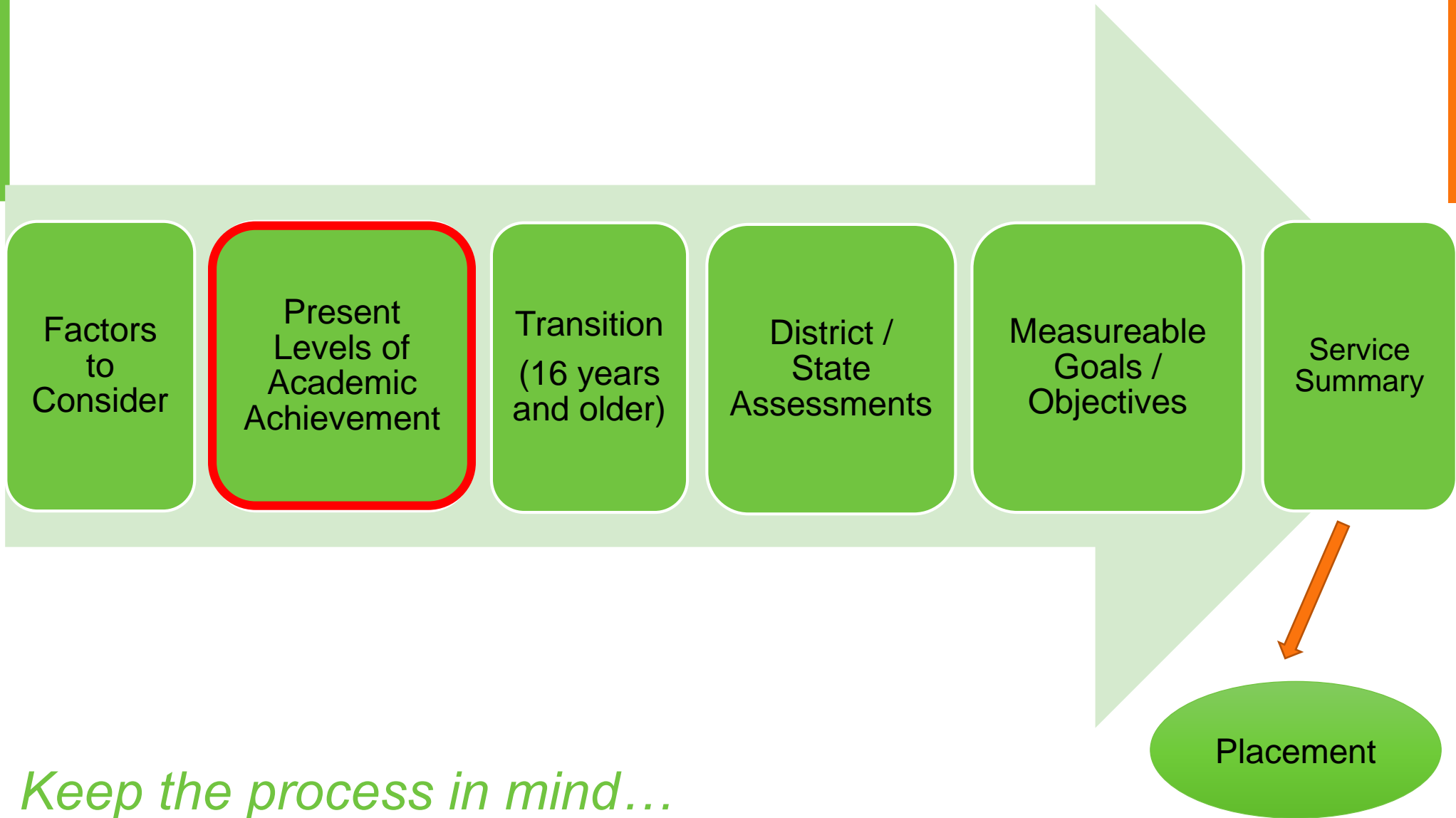
- Happier parents
- More information about students
- Appropriate supports
- Improved behavior and social skills
- Improved attendance
- Healthier team relationships
- Fewer disputes
- **Better outcomes for students!**



Tips and Tools for Parent Participation

- **Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood.**
- **Communication is a primary life skill in life. You spend years learning how to read and write, and years learning how to **speak**.**
- **Establish healthy communication**
- **Ask what works best for parents, and share what works best for *you* But what about **listening**?**
- **Build relationship and sense of community year round.**
Dr. Stephen R. Covey, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People
- **Set meeting dates together!**
- **Brainstorm and work in draft before you meet for IEP.**
- **Believe all members have the best of intentions**
- **Watch for unintended miscommunication/messaging (i.e. body language, seating, rush/hurried)**

Parents at Center Stage



Keep the process in mind...

- Create space for parent input
- Encourage the use of written parent input.
- Listen and read, and refer back.
- Ensure each concern is heard and discussed.

Parent Input Example

Strengths:

IEP Team,
 We look forward to working with you and the rest of the team to create a rigorous educational program for Sam, and provide him with the stepping stones to: receive a diploma, attend a post-secondary program, and live and work in community at age 22.

Strengths:

Concerns:

Smart. He has a great memory and loves to learn

- Engages with peers
- Enjoys books, reading, sports, and music
- Excellent computer skills
- Able to work independently when given a visual schedule and transitional warnings

Concerns:

- We are concerned that we are not utilizing assistive technology to support Sam's progress.

• We are concerned that there is not an adequate home/school communication

Remedies:

- We are concerned that we are not utilizing Sam's behavior supports causing unnecessary outbursts and consequences.

Remedies:

- We believe consultation by the assistive technology specialist will provide information on to use Sam's laptop successfully while in class.
- We believe that by ensuring that all staff is trained on Sam's behavior support plan, including his need for transitional warnings, Sam will demonstrate the appropriate behavior we are looking for.

We look forward to working as a team toward a successful year for Sam, collaborating for great progress on his educational goals.

The Smiths

Strengths/Gifts/Capacities



- Smart—he's a learner
- Great Sense of Humor
- Loves books
- Empathetic
- Very determined
- Able to use computer by himself!
- Has strong opinions
- Very visual learner
- Problem Solver
- Independent
- Imaginative / Story Teller
- Very physical - athletic

What *Works*



- Sports!
- Technology—iPad, iPod & computer
- Knowing what to expect - Information before changes
- Clear, concise directions
- Time to process
- Choices
- High Expectations
- Learning from typical peers
- Opportunities to try on his own
- Keeping his hands busy when sitting
- Calm Counter App
- Visuals
- Friends

What *Doesn't* Work



- Chaos—Yelling
- Hovering
- Being bored
- Low expectations
- Too many verbal directions
- No sensory breaks



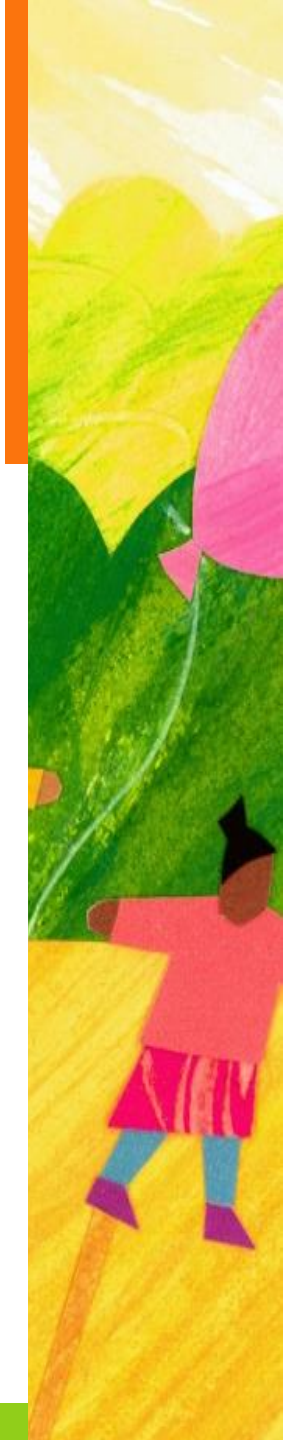
*Ask for (and support development of) a one-page profile!

Other Family Engagement Strategies



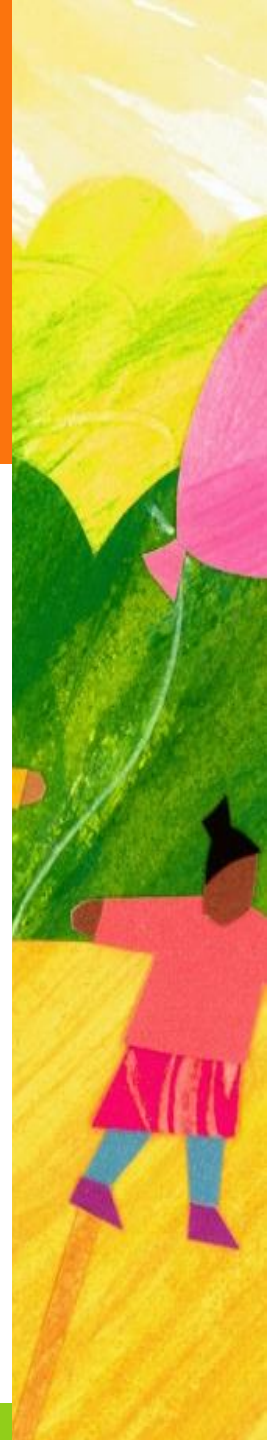
Staying Connected

- Share FACT contact information and materials
- Newsletters
- Conferences...share the positive, ask questions!
- Parent nights
- Volunteering
- Communication practices
- Checking in
- Advisory groups
- Representation on PTO/PTA



Changing Campus Culture

- Let families know they aren't alone!
- Offer resources and opportunities
- Ensure students with disabilities are invited to school-wide events!
- Work toward a welcoming campus culture for ALL!
- Engage general education and school administrators
- Engage parents in school-wide policy issues and school board activities



Questions & Answers



For questions, please call us at
(503) 786-6082 or 1 (888) 988-3228 ext. 302
or by e-mail support@factoregon.org.
Check out our website: www.factoregon.org