

# OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Agencies which can offer services and supports, students may need once they leave school to pursue postsecondary education, job training, work, personal and social relationships, involvement in the community, and independent living

## Why Outside Agencies?

Agencies have roles in Transition depending upon students' disabilities, vocational goals, and independent living needs

When agencies collaborate with education to support students' unique Transition needs and goals, students are more likely to be successful in post-secondary settings

## Which Outside Agencies?

These agencies may include the Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Department of Community Health Department of Health & Human Services, Disability Networks, and Michigan Works

## What is Their Role at an IEP?

\*Each agency has some statutory provisions and/or service policies about their role in providing supports and services to Students with Disabilities. IDEA requires that related services be considered during an IEP. These related services may be provided by agencies and individuals outside of the educational system. IDEA also requires that the Local Education Agency (LEA) invite agencies to the student's IEP who are likely to pay for or provide Transition Services to students. The law stops short of requiring attendance by those identified agencies.

## How Can I Best Work with an Outside Agency?

\*School personnel should learn how to best use community resources. It is important to develop collaborative relationships by learning and understanding eligibility requirements, scope of services, and the challenges and limitations of each agency.

\*It is important to link and communicate with outside agency partners.

- Attend Monthly Community Transition Council Meetings at the ISD
- Attend Student Transition Conferences, with Your Students, Sponsored by the ISD
- Take Your Students on Field Trips to these Agencies
- Invite Agency Representatives to Speak to Your Class
- Assist Students and Parents to Make and Keep Appointments with Outside Agencies as Needed

## When Should Outside Agency Partners Be Invited to IEPs?

\*Any time there seems to be a need for those services. If a student has counseling, employment, housing, independent living, or other needs not covered by the school you may consider inviting an outside agency (with parent/guardian approval). You can also ask a parent/guardian to invite that person as they can invite anyone they want to an IEP.

- If the school invites, use the "Permission to Invite form" available on the ISD website and [soon](#) on EdPlan (place this completed form in your file)
- Note who invited and if the agency partner attended on the IEP ("Community Agency Participation" section)
- When a student becomes their own parent/guardian, she/he must grant permission for an agency partner to attend