Preparing Youth in Special Education for Life After High School


KEY FINDINGS

• Socioeconomic challenges. Youth with an IEP are more likely than a decade ago to live in households that face economic challenges.

• School engagement. In the past decade, youth with an IEP have become more engaged in school and extracurricular activities, but there was little change in grade retention, suspensions, and expulsions.

• Supports. Youth with an IEP are more likely than in the past to receive supports at school but less likely to get them at home.

• Transition activities. Participation in some key transition activities declined, though not in IEP meetings.

• Disability groups. Youth with emotional disturbance and intellectual disability made progress in more ways than did those in other disability groups.

Growth in economic challenges faced by youth with an IEP 2003-2012:

- Increase in receipt of SNAP food assistance: 17%
- Increase in parent with no job: 5%

Trends for youth with an IEP (2003-2012)

- 19 percentage points Parents discuss transition plans
- 8 percentage points Employed in high school
- 13 percentage points Participate in clubs and sports
- 21 percentage points Receive school supports
- 21 percentage points Feel part of school

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