NEBRASKA TRANSITION

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From Knowing to Doing: PWN in Transition

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Session Feedback:

Please ensure that you complete this short survey at the conclusion of the event.

Your feedback is valuable to our future planning!!

https://s.esu10.org/PWN



From Knowing to Doing: Prior Written Notice (PWN) in IEP Transition Planning

- Today is about moving from *understanding PWN* to *using it well* in transition planning.
- Most of us know the requirements—this session focuses on **practical application**.
- Keep your own recent transition IEPs in mind as we go.

PWN Matters to Teachers

Prior Written Notice (PWN) is essential for teachers, ensuring effective communication with **students and families** about special education decisions, fostering transparency and collaboration in the educational process.



Purpose of PWN

Prior Written Notice (PWN) is essential for transparency, detailing the **team's decisions** on proposals and refusals, ensuring all parties understand the rationale behind those choices.

At its heart, PWN should answer a family's unspoken question: "How did the team arrive at this decision for my child?"



IDEA: Explanation Matters

IDEA doesn't just require that teams make decisions—it requires that parents are informed in writing when decisions are proposed or refused.



Legal Requirements

The **Legal Requirements of Prior Written Notice (PWN)** ensure that parents are adequately informed of decisions regarding their child's educational program. PWN must include specific details such as the action proposed or refused, the reasons for the decision, and the evaluation procedures used. By adhering to these regulations, schools can foster clear communication and collaboration with families, ultimately supporting effective transition planning for students with disabilities to achieve their goals.

Impact of Transition Planning

Transition planning plays a crucial role in shaping a student's future after high school. These high-impact decisions often reflect individual preferences, **family expectations**, and necessary connections to adult agencies. By carefully considering these factors, students can navigate their paths more effectively, ensuring they have the support and resources to succeed. The choices made during this pivotal time can significantly influence graduation pathways and overall life satisfaction, underscoring the importance of thoughtful planning.

Common Shortcomings in PWNs

KEY AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED

Many PWNs lack clarity in decision-making processes. It's essential to document all options and provide a strong rationale, ensuring clear connections to postsecondary goals for better outcomes.

- Lack of clarity in decision-making processes.
- Phrases like “the team discussed” without context.
- Missing rationale for key decisions.
- Rejected options not documented.
- Weak connections to postsecondary goals.
- These pitfalls hinder effective transitions and impact overall outcomes.



From Knowing to Doing

Effective PWNs Begin in Meetings

Strong Present Levels of Performance Notices (PWNs) are **crafted during discussions**, highlighting key points and decisions made.

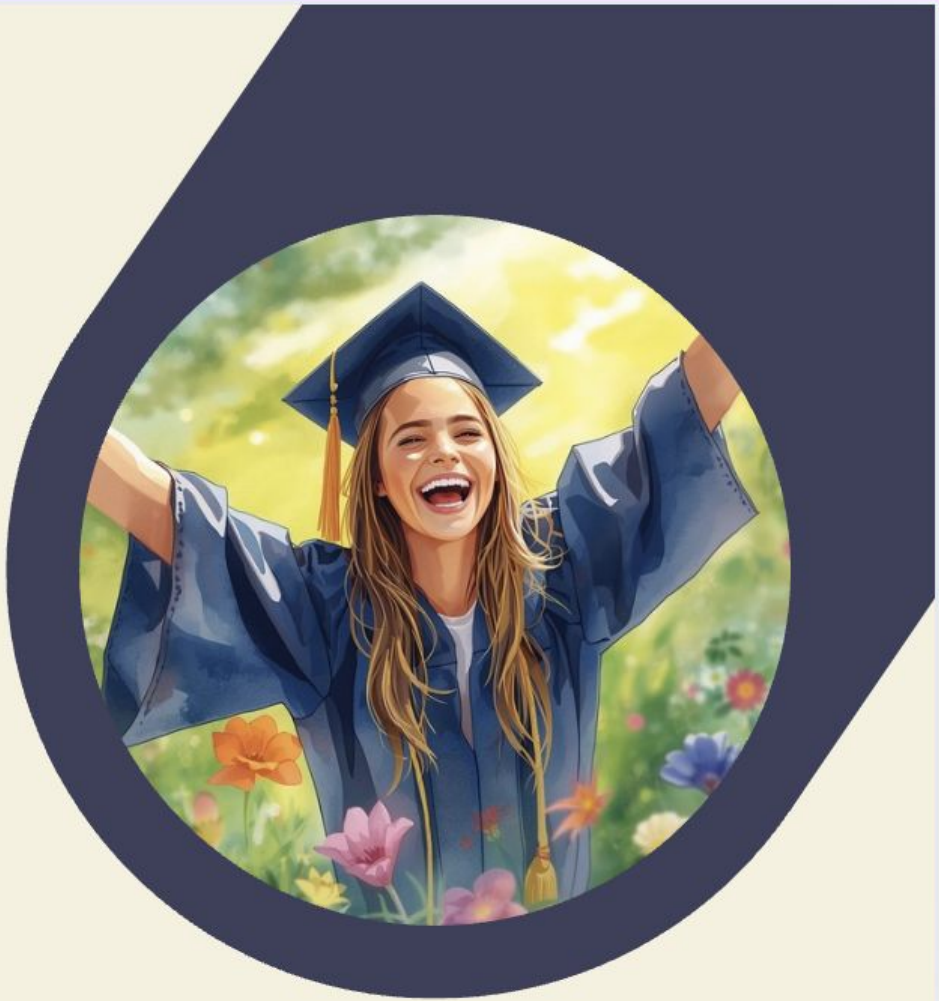
Every essential topic discussed in meetings deserves thorough explanation. This clarity ensures that all team members are aligned and can contribute effectively to the Individualized Education Program (IEP).



Informed Goals

Understanding how data shapes goals helps families support students' success and aligns with their strengths.

Understanding the **reasoning** behind proposed goals is essential for families to grasp how they align with the student's strengths and interests.



Understanding Postsecondary Goals

Aligning Education with Future Success

Career Aspirations

Identifying specific **career aspirations** helps students choose courses that build relevant skills, ensuring they pursue fields aligned with their passions and job market demands.

College Requirements

Matching selected courses with **college requirements** facilitates smoother transitions to higher education, as students gain necessary prerequisites and broaden their academic foundations for future studies.

Vocational Training

Exploring vocational training options can provide **hands-on experience** and practical skills, offering students alternative pathways to success while addressing market needs and personal interests.



PWN & Transition Services

Transition services empower students by carefully selecting activities that enhance their **life skills** and career planning, ultimately promoting independence and readiness for future success in their endeavors.

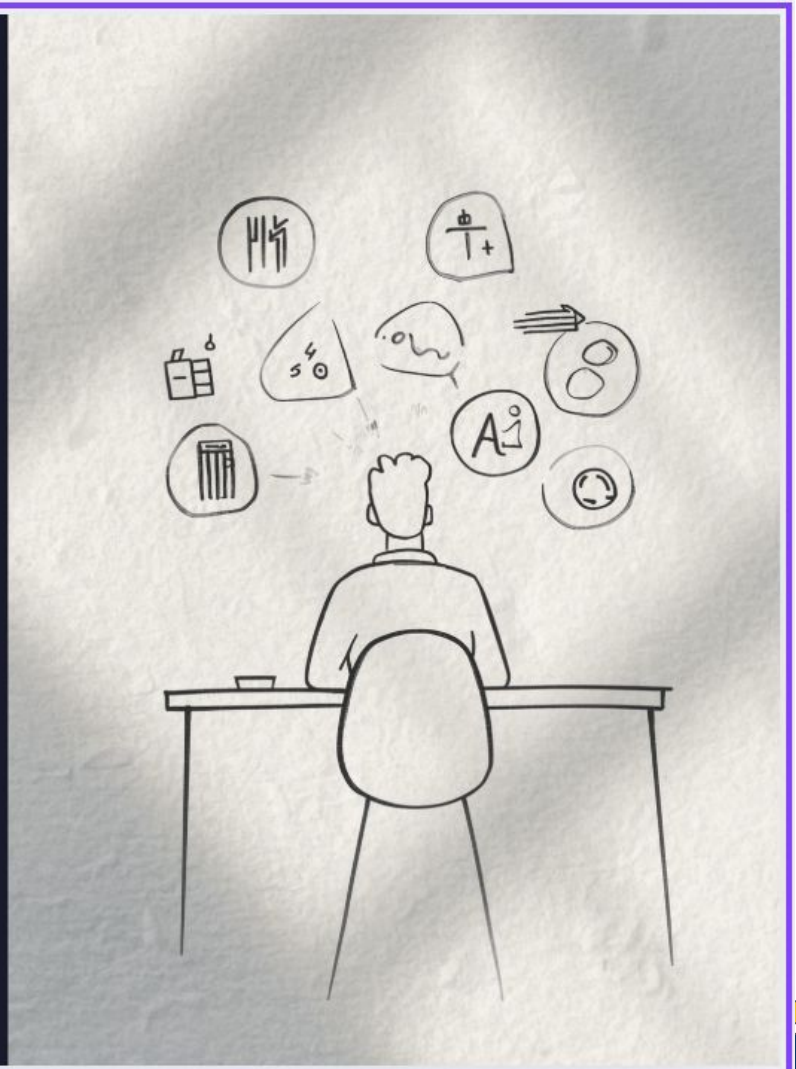


Agency Consideration

It's crucial for PWN to **document decisions** regarding outside agencies, outlining considerations and justifications for consent, especially as students near their exit from programs.

Decisions on inviting outside agencies must be thoroughly documented, detailing the rationale behind each choice, ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the process.

PWN should carefully record whether consent was received or not, clarifying the reasons for such decisions, particularly as students near their exit from the program.



Understanding PWN for Students

PWN (Present Levels of Performance, Goals, and Services) is essential for student transition planning. It helps educators make informed decisions by aligning support with individual goals for a successful transition to adulthood.





Making PWN Easier

- Write PWN Immediately for Accuracy
- Documenting Rationale in IEP Meetings
- Transition-Focused Prompts and Templates
- Collaborate Effectively with Your Team
- Write PWN Immediately for Accuracy

Together we can succeed

PWN Connects the IEP Discussion

Importance of Including Student Perspectives

Reflecting student voice is crucial in transition planning. It ensures that the transition plan aligns with the student's aspirations and preferences. Key considerations include:

- Actively involving students in discussions
- Encouraging self-advocacy and expression of goals
- Gathering input on preferred post-secondary options
- Facilitating open communication between students, families, and educators

By prioritizing these elements, we create a more inclusive and effective transition plan that empowers students to take ownership of their future.



PWN Protects Students

Effective Prior Written Notice (PWN) is essential, as it reduces confusion and helps families align their educational goals while ensuring all options have been thoughtfully considered in the planning process.



Parent Participation Matters

Empowering families for effective engagement

Meaningful family involvement is vital for success. PWN supports participation through clear communication, context for decisions, and empowering families to engage knowledgeably in transition planning processes.



Transition Planning Decisions

Postsecondary Goals

Establishing clear objectives for students' futures helps guide their educational and career pathways effectively.

Course of Study

Selecting appropriate classes ensures students gain necessary skills and knowledge for their postsecondary goals.

Transition Services

Providing tailored support and resources assists students in navigating their transition from high school to adulthood.

Graduation Pathways

Determining pathways to graduation ensures that students meet their goals while fulfilling academic requirements.

Agency Involvement

Engaging relevant agencies offers additional resources and support for students during their transition planning.

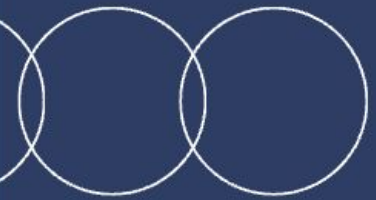
Proposed or Refused

Documenting what was proposed or refused clarifies decisions made by the team and their rationale.

Key Takeaways

PWN is a vital tool for fostering effective communication in education. Here are some key aspects to consider:

- **Communication Tool**: PWN encourages open dialogue between educators, students, and parents.
- **Clear Explanations**: Transition decisions require thorough explanations to ensure understanding and transparency.
- **Student-Centered Teaching**: Strong PWNs emphasize thoughtful teaching practices that prioritize student needs and learning outcomes.



By focusing on these principles, we can enhance the impact of PWNs, ensuring they serve as meaningful resources rather than mere compliance documents.



If this PWN were the only document a family read, would it clearly explain the transition plan?

Empowering teachers to inspire students

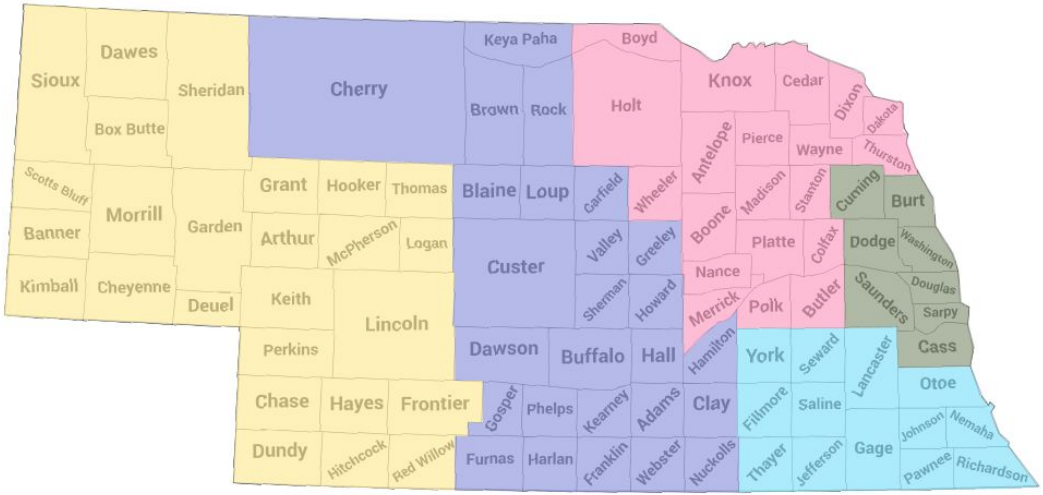
Resources

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