What's happening in 2017-2018

SB 20: Modified Diploma. SB 20, signed by Governor Brown on August 15, 2017, updates references to federal education law and the passage of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Included in this update are clarifications regarding the Modified Diploma. In April, 2014, following a presentation to the State Board, the Oregon Department of Education determined that the Modified Diploma was substantially similar to Oregon's Standard Diploma and students who receive this diploma are recognized as receiving the equivalent of a high school diploma and can apply for federal financial aid. In addition, students who are conferred a Modified Diploma within 4 years of high school enrollment are counted as graduates with peers who are conferred the Standard Diploma in Oregon's 4-year high school graduation rate.

SB 20 clarifies that students who are conferred a Modified Diploma with all rights and benefits of that diploma, are considered public school graduates. These students have met the graduation requirements of the state of Oregon, similar to their non-disabled peers. With this conferrance, the student is eligible for federal financial assistance for post-secondary schools and colleges, but is no longer eligible for public education services. If a student with disabilities has a continued need for transition and other IEP services, the student should not be conferred the Modified Diploma. This decision must be made by the student and his/her IEP team. IEP/transition services can continue until the student meets his/her transition goals or reaches age 21, when the student will age out of public education. The Modified Diploma would be conferred at that time.

All students with disabilities currently enrolled in transition programs can continue until age 21 or until the student meets his/her transition goals. This includes students who graduated in June 2017 and over the summer in 2017. The implementation of these SB 20 rules begins with students conferred the Modified Diploma in 2018 or later.

SB 263 sets forth the requirements that must be fulfilled by school districts when placing any student on a reduced school day schedule. https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB263/Enrolled

Legislative Reminder: Students who receive a modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate have the option to participate in high school graduation ceremonies with their class.

Want to create a seamless transition to positive Post School Outcomes for your students? **Transition Network Facilitators** can support in a variety of ways through professional development, training, resources, and connections based on your district, community and regional needs. Ask your TNF for more information on the following resources:

- Ways to Include Students in Their IEP
- Regional Job Club
- Transition and the IEP
- Educator Institutes
- MAPs and PATHs

and many other transition related program supports. Your TNF can help you navigate a strategic plan to suit your specific needs.

ODDS has updated its Career Development Plan (CDP) to include a person's goals and services. All people between the ages of 16 and 60 must have a CDP as part of their annual ISP. Regardless of service plan setting, it is critical to have a conversation about employment with people who are of working age. The Individual Service Plan (ISP) Manual, Employment Discussion Guide and Selecting Employment Providers Guide may be helpful in these discussions.

ODDS has provided CDP training statewide to help Service Coordinators and Personal Agents know how to talk to transition age students about work. A Personal Agent or Service Coordinator should encourage families and youth to begin planning for employment success before their transition from high school.

ODDS has a new web page to help students and other people with I/DD understand transportation funding and find resources in their local communities.
http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/ODDS-Transportation-Services.aspx