

**Report of the Special Education Continuous Improvement Team
Advisory Committee May 2010**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Continuous Improvement Team (CIT) recommends that the Office of Special Education and Student Services (OSESS) establish a project team to develop an action plan and timeline to address the following recommendations focused on improving the transition of students with disabilities and the achievement of successful postsecondary outcomes.

Short-term Recommendations:

- Conduct a review of course offerings at all high schools to determine if there is an appropriate selection of academic courses and courses focused on career readiness skills for students with more significant disabilities.
- Provide comprehensive professional development to central office and school-based staff focused on effectively transitioning students who have a range of learning styles and academic abilities.
- Provide detailed information to middle school and freshman high school students with disabilities and their families about options that may improve their transition, such as student service learning opportunities, career and technical education programs, work experience, Community and Career Connection, Transition to Independence, the Graduate Transition Program, and similar college-level programs.
- Review each student's performance using current assessment data to identify gaps in critical skills and abilities.
- Systematically plan for and provide service learning and work experiences consistent with long-term career interests and Individualized Education program (IEP) goals and objectives.
- Expand the current partnership with Montgomery College to reduce barriers and facilitate the transition of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) students with disabilities, including assisting students to prepare for the Accuplacer placement test.
- Review best practice transition models for possible implementation.

Long-term Recommendations:

- Develop a comprehensive transition website for students, parents, and staff. Include information on new options available to students with intellectual disabilities through the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008.
- Facilitate partnership agreements between MCPS and various community agencies to coordinate efforts, share funding streams, and expand opportunities for the employment of students with disabilities.

- Conduct a survey of graduates three years after exiting high school to evaluate their preparation for postsecondary education, employment, and independent living.