XXX Independent School District
Transition Assessment Tool Box

Definition
"Transition assessment is the on-going process of collecting data on the individual's needs, preferences, and interests as they relate to the demands of current and future working, educational, living, and personal and social environments". *Sitlington, Neubert, & Leconte, 1997, p.70-71).*

"Must be age appropriate: chronological, rather than developmental age" (Wehmeyer, 2002)

How do I select assessment instruments for Transition Assessment?
Select instruments for assessment by helping students answer the following questions:
1. Who am I?
2. What do I want to do in life, now and in the future?
   a. Job
   b. Postsecondary Education
   c. Living Options
3. What are some of the life's demands that I can meet now?
4. What are the main barriers to getting what I want from school and in the community?
5. What are my options in high school and in the community to help me prepare for what I want to do for a job, postsecondary education, and independent living?
   a. Career Choice
   b. Postsecondary Education
   c. Living Options

Next Steps
<u>Select assessment instruments</u> that are culturally sensitive, along with useful for students based on cognitive ability and language fluency.

<u>NEVER, NEVER</u> give an assessment without going over the assessment results with the students, unless you are comfortable never receiving your results from your "Professional Development Assessment Scale-PDAS" or your driving tests to obtain your driver's license.

<u>Ensure the use of age-appropriate</u> chronological assessments for students with cognitive disabilities.

<u>Gather existing data</u> before duplicating assessment and pulling students out of class. Students with disabilities who can least afford to miss instruction are often pulled out of class the most for testing. This may be necessary if testing does not exist, for example psychological testing or speech testing. Why do we pull students out of class for transition assessment when general education folders often contain career/employment related testing and postsecondary information?

<u>Most frequently asked question</u>: How am I going to find the time to do transition assessment? Not a good plan to ask this question. Testing to obtain information to plan for transition has been a requirement since 1990. Educators have been required to conduct interest and preferences assessment since 1990 and to conduct a functional vocational assessment, when appropriate. Use the time periods you used, since 1990, to conduct the new required assessment for transition. If you were not complying with the old federal and state requirement then indeed you are having to carve out a new time slot and do have a problem.

Developed by Vickie J Mitchell, Ed.D.; The Garrett Center, SHSU; Huntsville, TX.

What transition assessment tools do we have and what else do we need?

Assessment Tool	Purpose
General Education	
Statewide Assessment	*Academic*
PSAT*	*Postsecondary*
ACT/SAT*	*Postsecondary*
COGAT and IOWA (Elementary)	*Academic*
Bridges.com (Elementary)	
Benchmark data	*Academic*
Transcript/AAR	*Academic/Postsecondary/Employment*
Learning Styles Inventory	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living*
Multiple Intelligence	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living*
Four-Year Plan	
Career Center (Each High School has one)	
My Road**	*Personality/Strengths Assessment that links to matching career options*
Discover**	*Career/Employment*
Mapping-your-future.org	*Careers/Employment & Postsecondary Education*
Plan for College	*Postsecondary Education*
Careerkey.org	*Careers/Employment*
Senior Book and Junior Book	*Guidance to senior activities for graduation preparation, employment, and postsecondary education*
Collegenet.com	*Postsecondary Education*
Collegeweb.com	*Postsecondary Education*
ACT-Discover	*Career/Employment*
AVID- Advancement Via Individual Determination (all high school campuses)	*Dropout Prevention Program (has*
Gear-Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs)	
Achieve Texas (achievetexas.org)	*Career/Employment & Postsecondary Education*
www.careerclusters.org	*Career/Employment*
Special Education	
FIE	*Academic/Psychological*
Interest Inventory	*Career/Employment*
Parent Survey or Interview	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living*
Student Survey or Interview	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living*

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Student Interview	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living*
Adaptive Behavior	*Independent Living*
Functional Behavioral Assessment	*Independent Living*
Enderle-Severson Transition Rating Scale-III	*Employment/Postsecondary Education/Home Living/Community Participation/Recreation-Leisure*
Task Analysis (Work-Based Learning Sites)	*Career/Employment*
Teacher Observations	*Academic/Employment/Independent Living/Postsecondary Education*

*Assessment results can be located on the transcript, in the "State Folder", and in the "Transition Assessment Folder"

**When counselors in the College and Career Centers get PSAT results, DISCOVER, etc. the results are reviewed by the counseling department, if requested by the student. The results from the assessment are stored in the student's general education "Cum Folder" or the "Counseling Folder". Results are available to special education staff, if requested. Request that information and use is as Transition Assessment. It is transition assessment that was conducted by your general education colleague!

Additional Tools for Consideration

Assessment Tool	Type
Employment	
Beck's Reading Free Interest Inventory	
Strong Interest Inventory (SII)	
Self-Directed Search (SDS)	*Manual or Online*
Career Maturity Inventory (CMI)	
Work Adjustment Inventory (WAI)	
Career Interest Inventory	
Postsecondary Education	
TSI	
COMPASS	
ACCUPLACER	
Study Skills	
Independent Living	
Meyer-Briggs Type Indicator	
ARC Self-Determination Scale	
Task Analysis from the Life Skills Class	
?	
?	
?	

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Transition Inventories (Employment/Postsecondary Education/Independent Living/Supports)	
Supports Intensity Scale (ARC)	
Transition Planning Inventory (TPI)	*Manual and Software Version*
?	
?	
Self-Determination	
AIR or ARC Self-Determination Scale	
Choice Maker Self-Determination Assessment	
Whose Life Is It Anyway?	
?	

Creating the Transition Assessment Toolbox
1. Determine if you will have physical copies of the assessments or an online toolbox located on the intra-district website, that is available for district employees only.
2. Ensure you have conducted a gap analysis of your transition assessment tools and have what is needed to make decisions in all areas of decision-making requirements: employment, postsecondary education/training, and independent living skills.
3. Physical Transition Assessment Toolbox
    a. Store them in a location that is accessible to all special education staff. The diagnostician's office is not a good location if IEP Meetings are held there or if the office is locked while the diagnostician is in IEP Meetings. Teachers need access when they have the time to conduct the assessments.
    b. Create folders with the most commonly used assessments. Use a "highlighter" to mark "Master Copy" on one assessment. When that it all that is left, it reminds someone that more copies need to be made and the "last one" will never disappear because it has Master Copy in highlighter ink.
    c. For Transition Assessment kits, have a "sign out" process so you know where the kits are when they are not in the storage area.
4. Online Transition Assessment Toolbox
    a. Work with the district webmaster and Special Education Director to have a Transition Services link on the intra-district website, under special education, that is available only to ISD employees.
    b. Create a folder for Transition Assessment information and tools.
    c. Create sub-folders for elementary, middle, high school, and 18+.
    d. If possible, make PDF tools, fillable.
    e. Continuously, update and add to the transition assessment resources.