

How to Increase Student Participation in IEP Meetings

2023 G-CASE Fall Conference: Thursday Breakout Sessions
November 16, 2023 | 2:20 - 3:20PM | Savannah, Ga



North Metro GNETS Team

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UGH! My IEP meeting is coming up, but I don't want to attend!

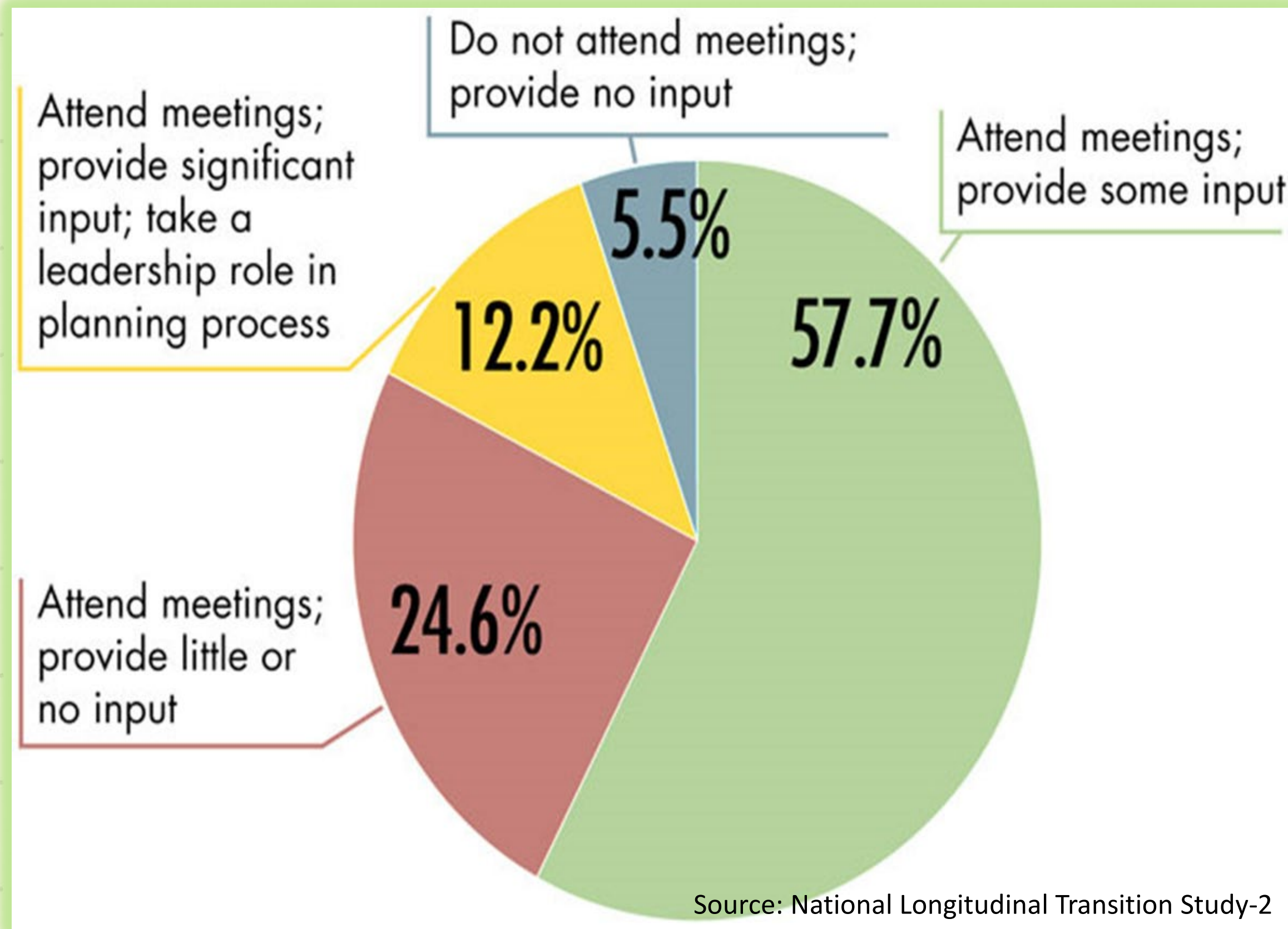
It's the same information year after year!

NOPE!

IEP Meetings are boring and a waste of time!

HELP! My students' IEPs are coming up, and they do not want to participate. What should I do?

Student Involvement in IEP Meetings



REASONS WHY STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES DO NOT ATTEND IEP MEETINGS

Used to hearing negative comments about their academic and behavior performance.

IEP Jargon is too difficult to understand.

Being overlooked or not considered.

Doesn't understand their disability; weaknesses or strengths.

Has a difficult time speaking in front of people, especially strangers.

The same information is being presented from the previous year.

Not knowing they CAN attend their IEP meetings.

Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy skills have NOT been developed



REASONS WHY TEACHERS DO NOT INVITE STUDENTS TO ATTEND IEP MEETINGS

- ❑ Not centering the IEP around the student
- ❑ Thinking the student is not ready to participate in their IEP meeting (personal opinion and not based on data/parent's feedback).
- ❑ Holding the meeting at the last minute and not being adequately prepared.
- ❑ Assuming the student doesn't want to participate.
- ❑ Not being knowledgeable in how to engage all students with disabilities no matter their cognitive level.



HOW CAN TEACHERS AND STAFF SUPPORT STUDENTS TO TURN **NO** INTO **YES**!

Support

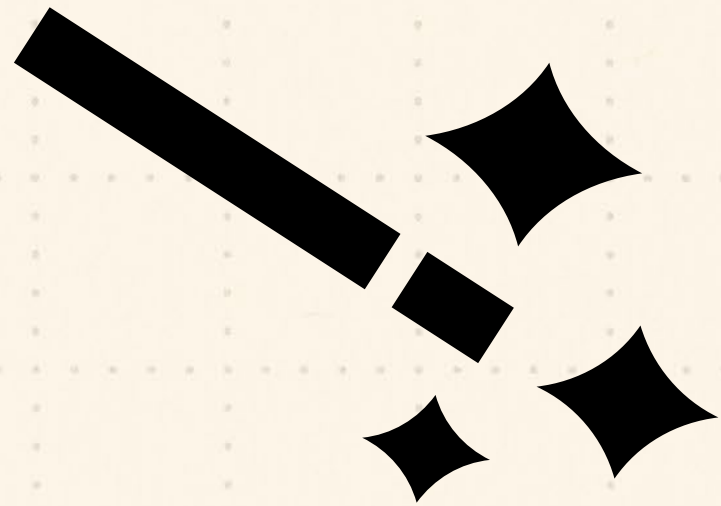
GAH! NO...



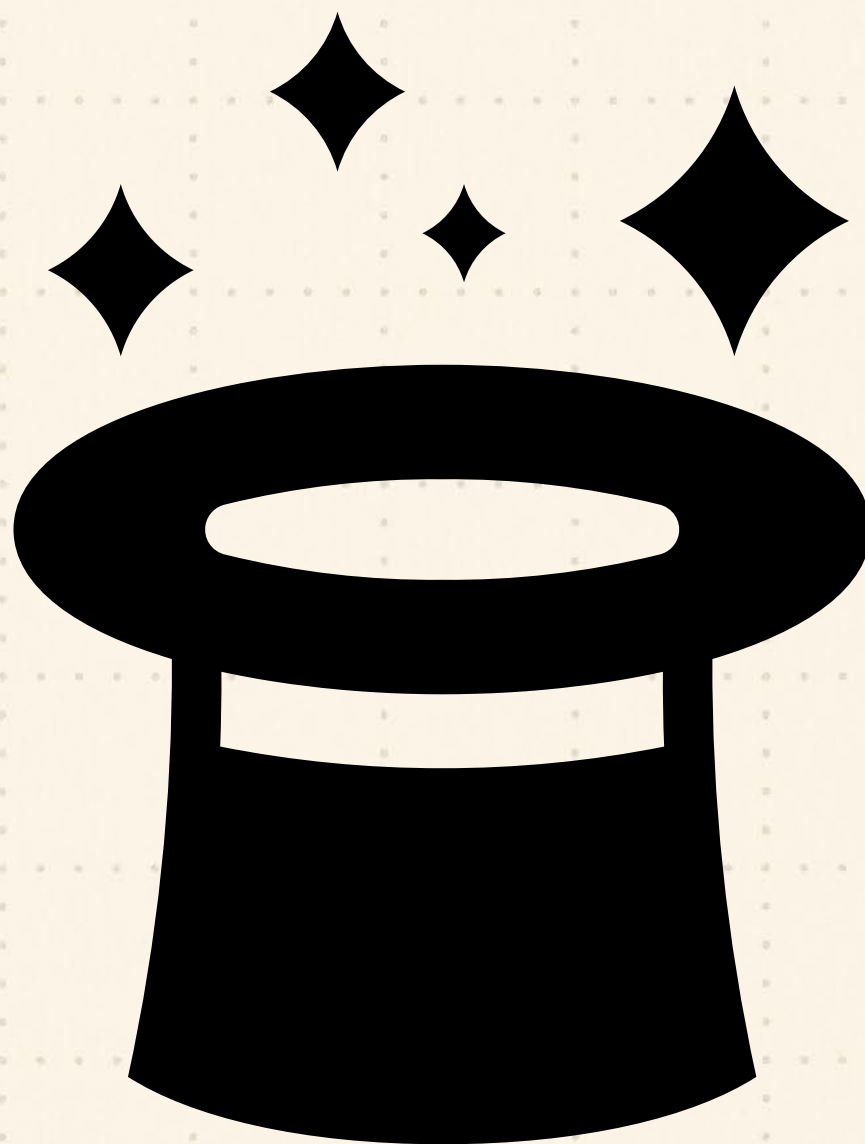
JUST NO



YES!!!



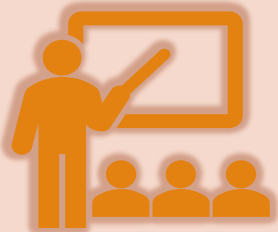
MAGIC!



How??????



By utilizing resources that will help students learn self-determination and self-advocacy skills.



**ASPIRE-Active Student Participation
Inspires Real Engagement**

“ASPIRE is a student-led IEP initiative that provides the student with the opportunity to develop self-determination skills.” (GaDOE)



**Pathful Explore
(Formerly Virtual Job Shadowing)**

*“Pathful Explore is a grade 6-12 exploration and preparation platform that prepares students for college a career.” (Pathful)
Student-Focus Planning*

ASPIRE

Active
Student
Participation
Inspires
Real
Engagement



I matter

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September's Activity: Identify Strengths and Weaknesses



Name: _____

Date: _____



One-Pager

Answer each of the four parts in this One-Pager. Your answers will help you create your **SPIN**, or your **S**trengths, **P**references, **I**nterests, and **N**eeds. Give it to your teachers and employers so you can help them understand you and your needs and you can be successful!

My Strengths

My Preferences

My Interests

My Needs



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Scan code for more guidance, videos, and examples.
For additional resources visit www.imdetermined.org/resources.



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October's Activity:

What makes You have a Good Day?



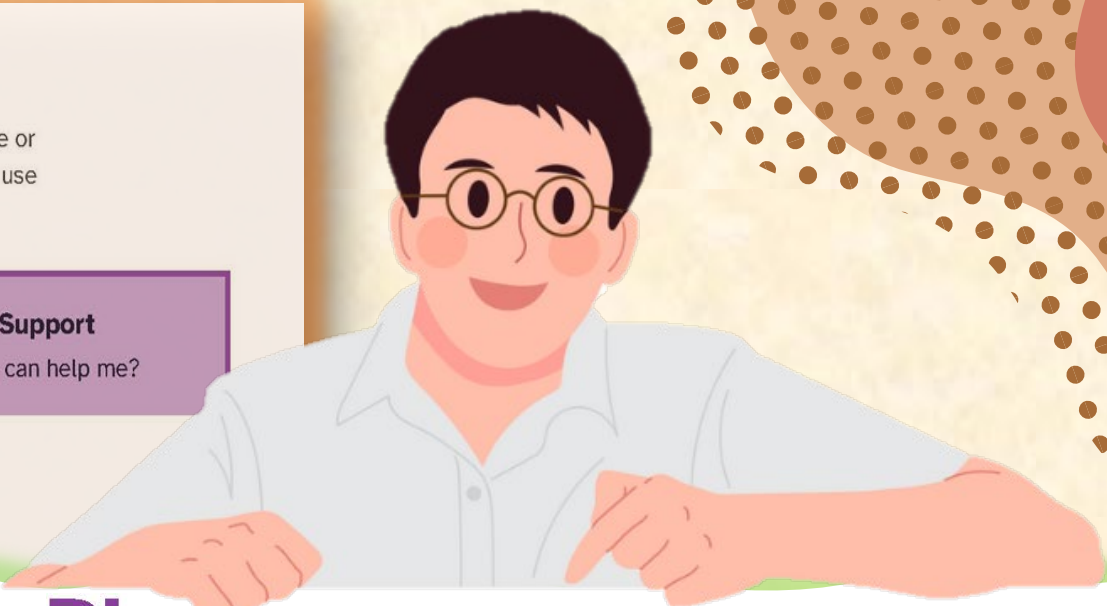
Good Day Plan


Answer each of the four parts in this Good Day Plan. Think about what happens on the best days and write or type out what happens, if it's happening now, what you can do to have a good day, and what help you can use along the way.

Good Day What happens on a good day?	Now Does it happen now?	Action What needs to happen to make it a good day?	Support Who can help me?



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Good Day Plan

Use this as a facilitation guide to complete the Good Day Plan tool, or to help someone else complete it. The questions below can be used as prompts to help you arrive at answers. Focusing on one column at a time may also help. We encourage you to share your finished Good Day Plan with others!

Good Day What happens on a good day?	Now Does it happen now?	Action What needs to happen to make it a good day?	Support Who can help me?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">What things are always present on good days?What do I do on a good day?What makes me happy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Am I getting what I need during the day?If yes, GREAT! Keep it up.If not, move to next column to think of options and other choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What do I need to make this happen?What things or plans can I use to help me?What goals should I set for myself?What do others do to make this happen that I could try?Is there a reasonable other choice?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What people can help me have a good day?What people do I need in order to increase the chance of good things happening?Who supports me?Can I be the support person for this?



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October's Activity: Good Day Plan (Low Incidence Students)



Teacher



Mother



Bus Driver

Who can help you
have a good day?

What can help you
have a good day?



Snacks



iPad



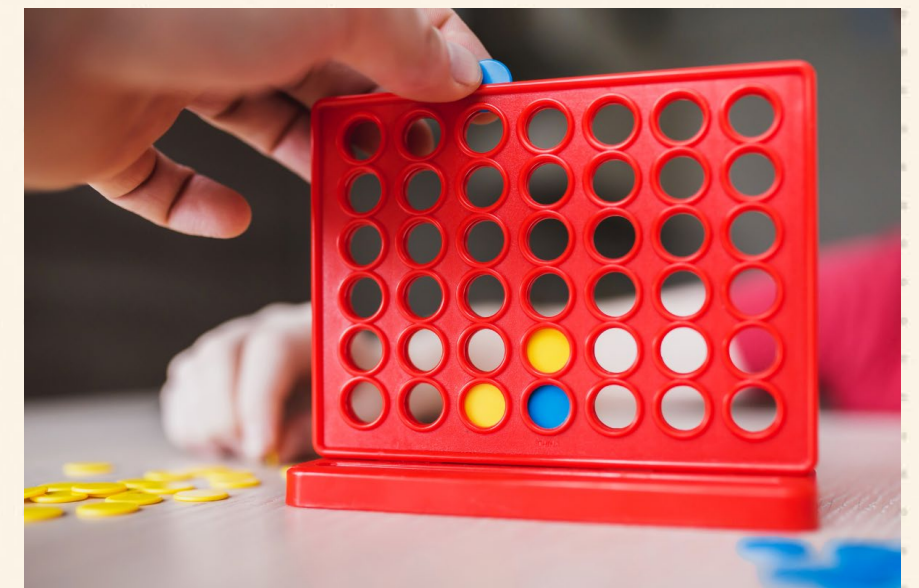
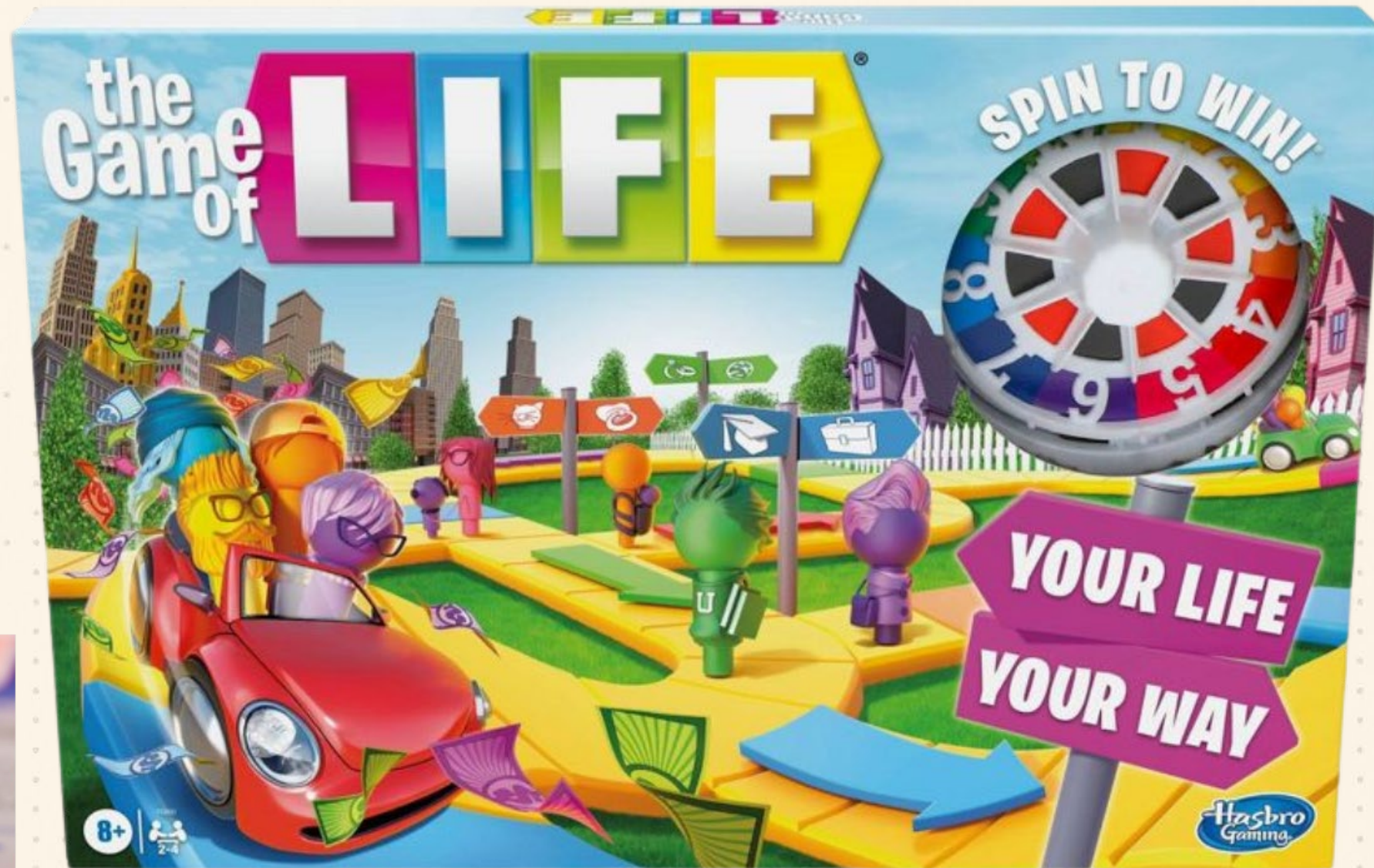
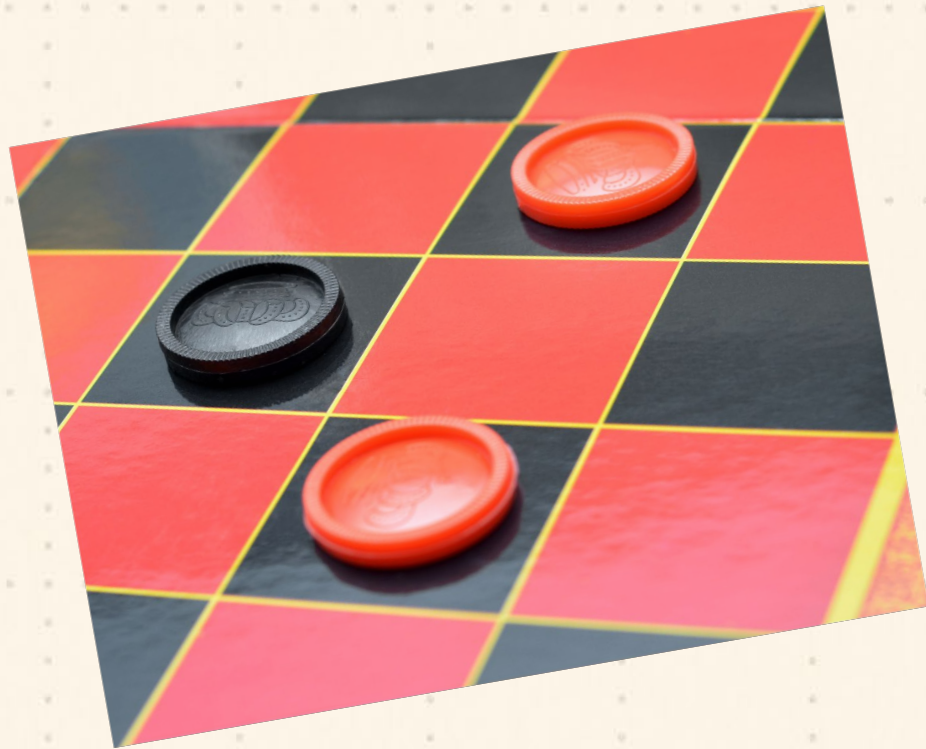
Preferred Person



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Decision Making Activity



Self-Advocacy Activity

11 self-advocacy skills



- 1 Positive self-talk
- 2 Accomplishment tracking
- 4 Showcasing your success
- 5 Asking for help
- 6 Setting the boundaries
- 7 Standing up for yourself
- 8 Not expecting a "No"
- 9 Walking in their shoes
- 10 Strengthening your network
- 11 Being SMART in your requests

8 Tips to become an effective self-advocate



Tip 1 - Smile!

Smiling is the easiest way to lower your stress rate and win over your opponent.



Tip 2 - Mind your body language

Your surroundings "read" the messages of your body language and act accordingly.



Tip 3 - Try on a new look

Your appearance affects not only your self-perception but also the opinion of others.



Tip 4 - Listen to your body

Maintaining your mental and physical well-being can make you feel more confident and assertive.



Tip 5 - Grow your comfort zone

Growing your confidence will help you feel at ease in potentially stressful situations.



Tip 6 - Beat impostor syndrome

Do your best to eliminate those thoughts that make you believe you don't deserve success.



Tip 7 - Keep a gratitude journal

Once a week, list at least three things you owe to your friends, parents, or tutors.



Tip 8 - Keep a goals journal

Once a week, take some time to think of the steps that you need to take to get to the desired result.

Why is self-advocacy important?



You empower yourself



You control reality



You understand others' needs



You learn to solve problems



You develop yourself



You create healthy relationships

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IEP Invite Cards: Low-Incidence Students

Four IEP Meeting Reminder cards are shown, each with a green chevron border and a cartoon character holding a sign that says "IEP Meeting Reminder". The cards are arranged in a 2x2 grid. Each card has a dashed box for the following information:

- Date: _____
- For: _____
- Date: _____
- Time: _____
- Place: _____
- Looking forward to meeting with you, _____

A scroll-style IEP Invite Card with a yellow background and a black border. The card contains the following text:

Date: _____

Dear _____,

Please come to my I.E.P. meeting. It will be:

Place: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

I hope you can be there! Many important things about my education will be decided on that day and I need your support.

 Love. _____

Invitation Videos: Low Incidence Students



*Who do you
want to invite
to your IEP
Meeting?*



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IEP Video Presentation



IEP Presentation Kahoot Game

The Kahoot! logo is a square divided into four quadrants of different colors: red (top-left), blue (top-right), yellow (bottom-left), and green (bottom-right). The word "Kahoot!" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the square.

Kahoot!

Transition Assessments



Sample Transition Assessments

Pathful Explore

Your College & Career Readiness Journey | Pathful

Pathful explore

Career Clusters Interest Survey EZ

The scores below indicate how compatible you are to each career cluster.

25 and 18 and indicate that you have a high level of interest in the types of activities represented by those career clusters. **17 and 10** and indicate that you have average interest in the types of activities represented by those career clusters. **9 and 0** and indicate that you have little interest in the types of activities represented by those career clusters.

Name:
Jennifer Tolbert

Date Taken:
October 18, 2023

Career Cluster

Score

Manufacturing

Careers in this cluster are dedicated to making materials and products.

18

Health Science

Careers in this cluster are dedicated to providing health care services to patients.

10

Business, Management

Careers in this cluster are dedicated to performing leadership roles in small businesses or corporations.

9

ID Transition Assessment

Pictorial Interest Inventory Structured around eight different career fields (cves.org)

Pictorial Interest Inventory

Structured around eight different career fields

Student name:

Today's Date:

Birth Date:

Age:

How to Use This Inventory



Directions:

- Each page contains three pictures.
- Choose the picture from each group that shows the task you like most.
- Place an "X" under the picture of the task you choose.
- Choose only one from each page.

A



B



C



Questions?

?

?



Thank You

*Thank you everyone for attending our
breakout session.*

*Have a safe Fall Break and an
AMAZING school year!*

