

Courses of Study

COURSES OF STUDY

The courses of study defines the **multi-year set of classes or activities** on a pathway to secondary goals that begins in middle school and culminates the last year in school.

IDEA 97 STORMS & O'LEARY 2000

“Perhaps the best way to think about courses of study is the series of courses and experiences that the student needs to achieve his or her desired post-school results or goals relative to further education or training, employment, community living and recreation. It should include regular education courses; advanced placement courses; specially designed instruction; community experiences; and employment adult living and daily living objectives.”

Storms, J., O'Leary, E., & Williams, J. (2000). *Transition requirements: A guide for states, districts, schools, universities and families*. Minneapolis, MN: Western Regional Resource Center.

THE COURSES OF STUDY

- A multi-year description of coursework and activities from the student's current to anticipated exit year that is designed to help the student achieve their desired postsecondary goals (PSGs).
- Reflects an educational program and plan that specifies all courses, educational experiences, and activities from the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP team.
- Reflects the planning that relates to the student achieving their desired measurable post-secondary goals and helps them make a successful transition to post-school adult life.
- Reflects multiple years of classes and educational experiences, not just one year.

REMINDER:

- Courses of study **are not** the coursework required to attain a specific high school diploma.
- The courses of study must **align** with the post-secondary goals.
- Courses of study must be **reviewed annually**.
- Look at your September caseload and determine which students are turning 16 and plan for the Transition IEP.
- Look at assessments to see student strengths, interests, preferences, and needs.
- Think of courses of study as a pathway for the student to gain skills in order to achieve their post-secondary goals.
- Ask what classes or activities provide skills that will support this student's post-secondary goals.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED...CTE?



CTE Programs of Study in your school may have courses that support student post-secondary goals. Below are some ideas that may be helpful in exploring CTE:

- **Aptitude testing:** YouScience is an online assessment (funded through CTE for your school) that may give you and your student information around strengths that point to a career path direction. (NOTE: Check TTAN Website Handbook Resources for more information.)
- **CTE Programs of Study:** What specific programs of study are in your school that highlight and complement the students' strengths and interests?
- **CTE Planning for Participation:** Consider meeting and pre-planning with your CTE instructor around elements that need to be in place for student safety/support accommodations needed.

