



# RAISE Summit 2025

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# Housekeeping

Restrooms

Summit recording

Using microphone

Please sit wherever you feel comfortable

# RAISE Summit Agenda

**12 PM-12:30 PM:** Welcome & grab lunch!

**12:30 PM-1:30 PM-** RSA PC Spotlight

**1:30 PM – 2:30 PM-** Empowering Youth Engagement: Insights from RAISE Mini-Grant Recipients

**2:30 PM-2:45PM-** Break

**3 PM- 3:45 PM-** Round table discussions

**3:45 PM-4 PM-** Wrap up, takeaways, plan ahead, evaluations

# Break & Grab Lunch

12PM-12:30 PM



# RSA Parent Center Spotlight

12:30 PM-1:30 PM

Regional RSA Parent Centers have developed resources to support parent centers, families, and youth in transition. In this session, each RSA PC will share an online tool to aid the process



# Empowering Youth Engagement: Insights from RAISE Mini-Grant Recipients

RAISE mini-grant recipients share their experiences co-creating resources with youth leaders with disabilities, strengthening engagement, fostering innovation, and building lasting partnerships



# IEPODCAST

## Individualized Education Podcast:

## A new way to self-advocate

**IEPODCAST** - CHASE Program at Families Together, Inc-

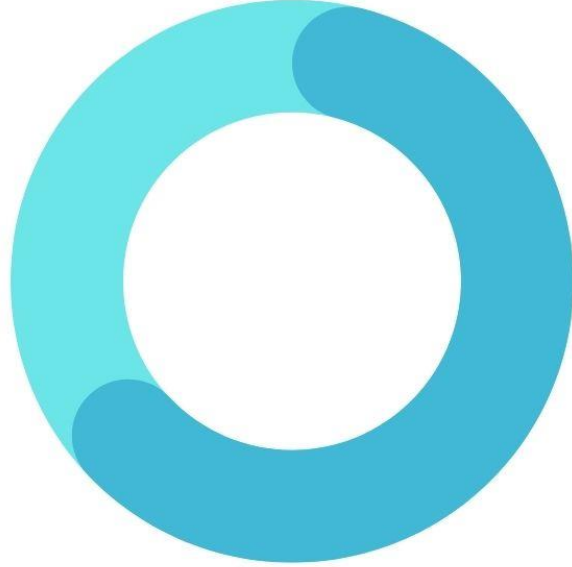
IEPodcast is an innovative platform that empowers youth to advocate for themselves in IEP meetings through a fun and creative podcast format. By sharing their voices in a dynamic and engaging way, students can express their needs, goals, and strengths with confidence.



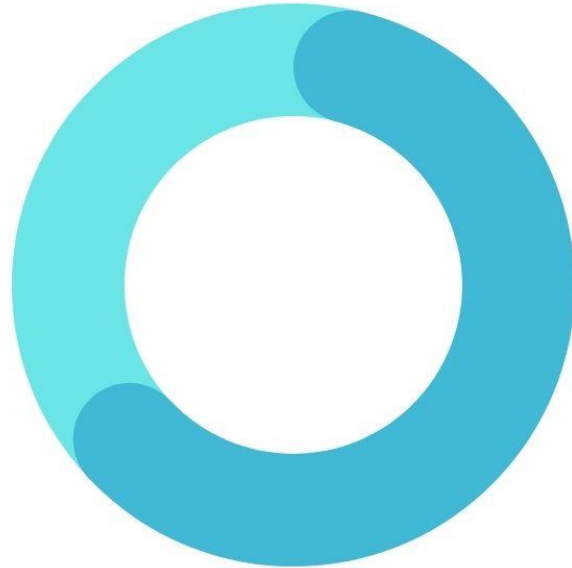
***A SPAN Project\****

Mini-grant project presentation  
April 10, 2025  
Denver, CO

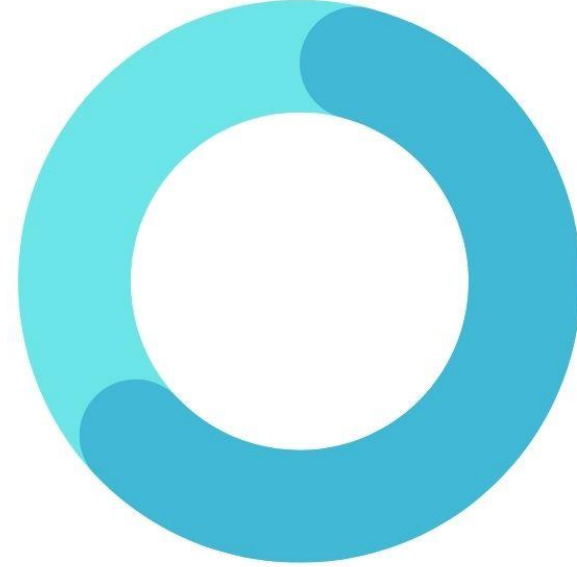




**BUILD COMMUNITY**

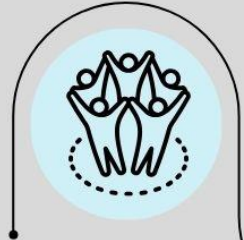


**DEVELOP SELF-  
ADVOCACY SKILLS**

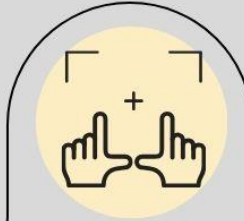


**CO-CREATE YOUTH-  
FRIENDLY RESOURCE**

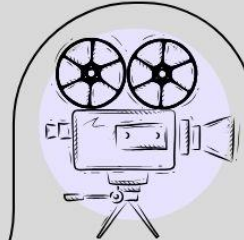
**Recruit  
Participants**



**Meeting # 2:  
Develop content**



**Meeting # 3:  
Provide feedback  
on final product**



**Meeting # 1:  
Get to know each  
other and share  
ideas**



**Create the film**



# ADULTING



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graph TD; A[ADULTING] --- B[TRANSPORTATION]; A --- C[HEALTH]; A --- D[HOUSING]; A --- E[SCHOOL]; A --- F[MONEY]; A --- G[WORK];
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TRANSPORTATION

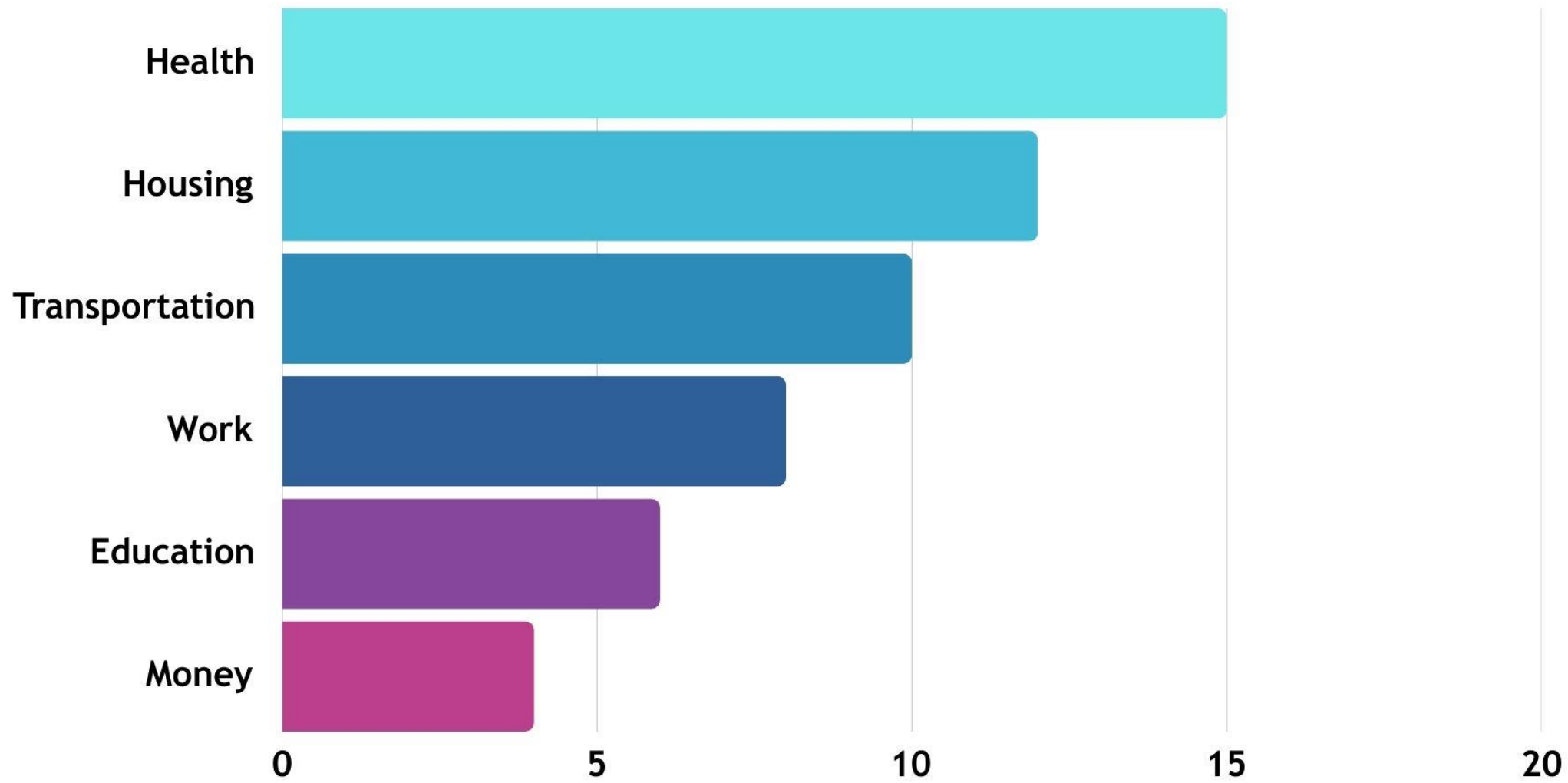
HEALTH

HOUSING

SCHOOL

MONEY

WORK



# Brainstorm: Topic #1: HEALTH

19 responses

How to meet personal care/basic needs

Having someone to talk to if you need too

PCA crisis, hiring PAs

what to do if PAs cancel

reproductive health

Gynecology and reproductive health

Making sure you take time to do things you enjoy

Health insurance

Sexuality and relationships

Leaving time for time with family

Bathroom needs

benefits like SSI/medicaid and determining eligibility

# Brainstorm

Healthy  
relationships

Hiring and  
managing  
personal care  
attendants

Accessible  
transportation

When to  
disclose  
disability

Benefits  
information

Accessible  
housing

Supported  
decision-  
making

Managing  
money

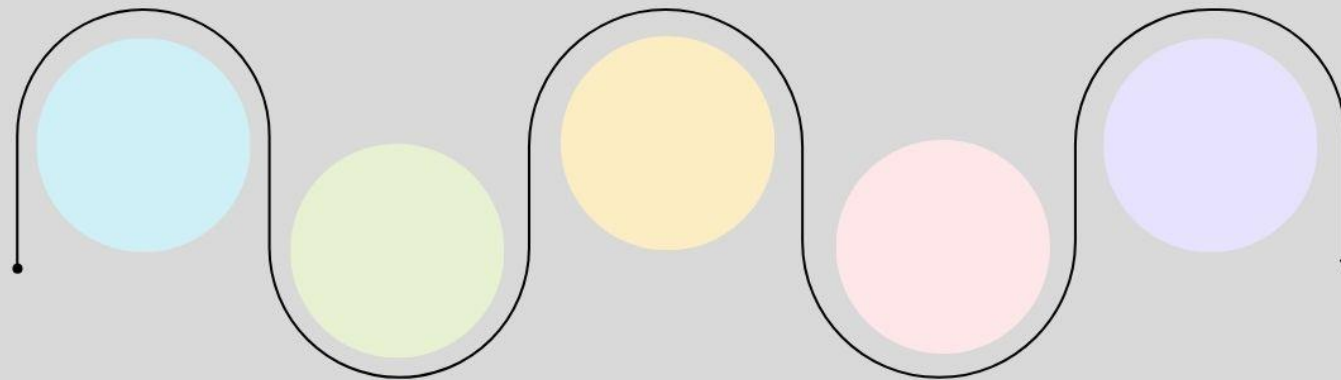
How to be  
safe when  
traveling

Laerning  
how to  
navigate  
public  
transit

**Diverse  
representation**

**Audio descriptions**

**Slow pace**



**Minimal text**

**Plain language**



# Self-Care for Youth with Disabilities- Vermont Family Network

[Self-Care for Youth with Disabilities-](#) This short film is the result of a collaboration between a group of youth and the **Vermont Family Network**.

Thank you to the following young people who participated:  
Emily Ingalls, Noah Cohen, Opal Besaw, Joe Delgado, Hannah Gallivan,  
Lexia Stanley

*"I loved going to the meetings! They were fun and it was good to be a part of it."*

*"It means a lot to me that you decided to take on this project. Transition is a really hard time in one's life, and I feel like a lot of students fall through the cracks."*



# YOUTH COMMUNICATION IDEAS

## How to make sure your voice is heard- PATHFINDER FAMILY CENTER

**YOUTH COMMUNICATION IDEAS** – The **Pathfinder Service of ND's** Youth Point of View (POV) team; Holden Bouilly and Signy Webb, with their facilitator Mistie Bouilly, worked on creating a companion piece to their communication webinar that they are currently preparing to record. This webinar goes over communication styles and being confident in their self-advocacy skills.

# Tips for Advocacy-PATHFINDER FAMILY CENTER

**Tips for Advocacy-** The **Pathfinder Service of ND's** Youth Point of View (POV) team; Holden Bouilly and Signy Webb, with their facilitator Mistie Bouilly discussed resources they believed would be helpful. The youth chose to focus on creating a resource that would be helpful for Peers related to Advocacy.

# Transportation- FCSN's Youth Advisory Board

[Transportation](#)- The Federation for Children with Special Needs founded our first Youth Advisory Board last August, made up of 10 members. They have been hard at work on different projects, panels, and events. They are excited to be presenting their thoughts and experiences on the state of Transportation in Massachusetts. The YAB comes from all different backgrounds and has a wide range of life experience between them. They cover topics of public transportation, city accessibility, driving, and generally the challenges of getting around as a person with a disability and how they handle them.

# My Voice

## Voice Missouri (Missouri Youth Voices of Independent Collective Education)

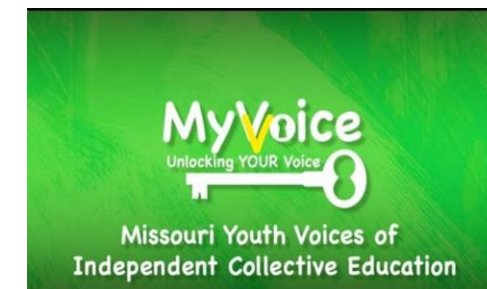
[My Voice](#) - My Voice Missouri (Missouri Youth Voices of Independent Collective Education) is all about encouraging students to take charge of their education! In this video, students share their personal experiences with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and why self-advocacy is so important.



# Missouri Youth Voices Of Independent & Collective Education



*A SPAN Project\**



Purposes	Examples
Learn to lead and advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leading MyVoice meetings</li><li>• Deciding group actions</li><li>• Presenting to youth and professionals</li><li>• Learning from national organizations (RAISE, YETI)</li></ul>
Help Missouri youth find their voices and become strong leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presenting at Missouri's statewide Transition Training Institute</li><li>• Presenting at regional transition network (RTN) events</li><li>• Volunteering as MPACT mentors</li></ul>
Help MPACT improve its youth programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creating content for MPACT (Student-Led IEP video project)</li><li>• Providing feedback on MPACT training materials</li></ul>



# Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands (DRCVI)

**DRCVI** has a Youth Empowerment Leadership Program in the Edith Williams Alternative Academy on St. Thomas, VI. Each semester, we have 10 students in this program, and they learn about Self-Advocacy, Career Exploration, and Self-Esteem.

The students in our Fall semester assisted us with creating the [Teen Mental Health Brochure](#). The students in our Spring semester assisted us with creating the [Teen Mental Health Poster](#).

# In My Shoes – Youth Point of View on Workplace Accommodations

## PTI Nebraska

### [In My Shoes – Youth Point of View on Workplace Accommodations](#)

A handout created by and for youth with disabilities, empowering them to advocate for workplace accommodations using the Job Accommodation Network (JAN) website.

# Open Doors for Multicultural Families

- Transition Blog Series

- Identity & Advocacy Video

- .

- Self Advocate Transition Planning Guide



- **Transition Blog Series**

- Series of 7 transition focused blogs written by self advocates

- **Identity & Advocacy Video**

- Self advocate stories of Transition
- Available in English, Vietnamese, Spanish
- & Somali



Identity, Culture & Advocacy in Special Education Video

**Voices of our Community**



### **Assistive Technology Is for Everyone: Rethinking How We View Help and Support**

We all use technology to make our lives easier every day, but have you ever stopped to think about how many were originally designed as "assistive technology"? Take a moment to look around you. Maybe you're wearing glasses or contact lenses - that's assistive technology. Perhaps you used spell check while writing an email this morning - that's assistive technology too. Did you use voice commands to set a timer while cooking, or an alarm clock to wake up? You guessed it - these are also assistive technology.

Yet somehow, when we hear the term "assistive technology," our minds often jump straight to specialized devices used exclusively by people with disabilities. This narrow view not only misses the bigger picture but also perpetuates harmful stigmas about needing and using help. The truth is, we're all users of assistive technology - we just don't label it that way for everyone.



### **Life After High School: Navigating the Transition to College with Autism**

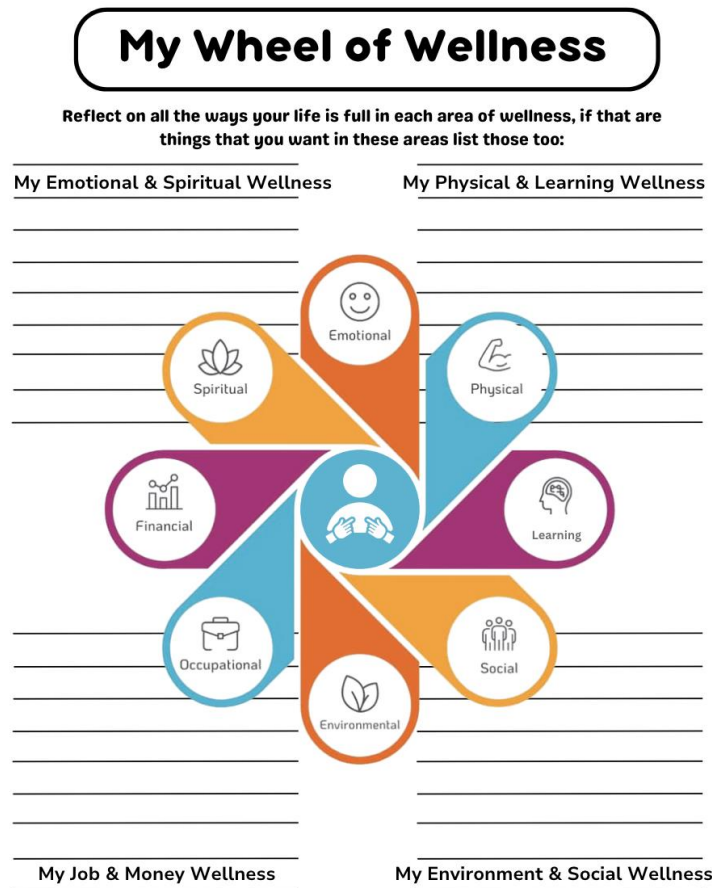
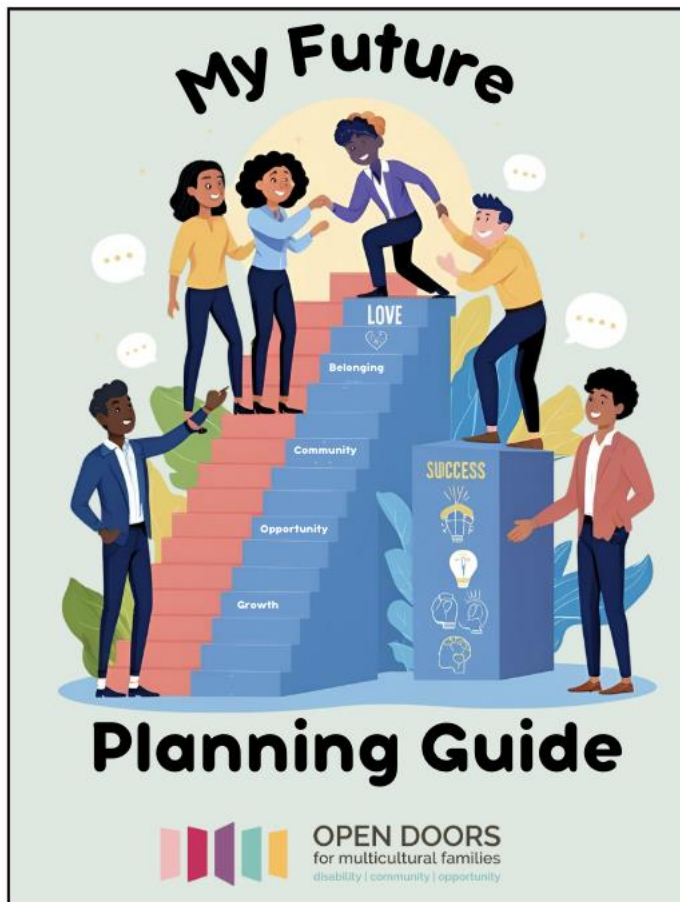
#### **One autistic student's journey through college and beyond**

The bell rings one final time. Graduation caps soar through the air. For most students, this moment marks an exciting transition to independence. But for those of us with autism, that excitement often comes mixed with a unique cocktail of uncertainty and apprehension. You see, while many view autism primarily through an academic lens - as a learning disability that affects schoolwork - the reality is far more complex.

#### **More Than Just a Learning Difference**

When I graduated high school, I didn't just leave behind classrooms and textbooks. I left behind an entire support system: teachers who understood my needs, counselors who helped chart my course, and a structured environment that made the world feel

- Leading self advocate sessions rooted in Person Centered Planning to explore future Future planning through High Tech and Low Tech interactive activities.



# AI High Tech Chat Prompts:

Cut out the cards below. Take time with Chat GPT or another AI website (Microsoft Co-Pilot, Claude, etc.) and explore these questions about your future.

"What jobs might be good for someone who loves [specific interest] and needs [specific accommodation]?"

"What are some ways I could turn my passion for [hobby/interest] into a career?"

"Can you describe what a day might look like for someone with [specific disability] working as a [desired profession]?"

"What are some creative living arrangements that would work well for someone who needs [specific support/accommodation]?"

"What technology might help me be more independent with [specific challenge]?"

"What are some social activities or clubs where I could meet people who share my interest in [specific interest]?"

"What education options might work for me if I need flexible schedules or additional support?"

"Can you suggest ways I could advocate for myself in a job interview?"

# **We Want to be Heard: Voices of Whitmer High School Transition Age Youth-Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities**

[We Want to be Heard: Voices of Whitmer High School Transition Age Youth](#)

# Long Island Advocacy Center (LIAC)

Long Island Advocacy Center (LIAC) in New York developed a video to teach and foster self-advocacy skills in youth with disabilities by centering conversations around their dreams. LIAC will facilitate recorded interviews with multiple youths, focusing on their identity, independence, and aspirations. The goal is to strengthen their ambition, build self-confidence, and encourage others in the community. The final video will be available for distribution across multiple networks, including a list serve of over 12,000 stakeholders, LIAC's website, and social media.

[Self-Advocacy Video](#)

**BREAK**

**2:30 PM - 2:45 PM**

# ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

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**3 PM - 3:45 PM**

# Thank you!

Please complete the evaluation in your email

