

# Growing Above Simple Compliance...

## *A 10-Year Reflection on Developing and Implementing Transition Services*

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Ashley Principe, M. Ed.



HINSDALE TOWNSHIP  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 86

# Meet the Presenters

**Taryn Chrapkowski** has worked in both private and public education for over 20+ years, first in therapeutic schools, Chicago Public Schools, and for the last 19 years as the Transition Specialist and Department of Rehabilitation Services Youth Services Coordinator for Hinsdale Township School District 86. She is a LBS-I and also holds a M.Ed. in Teacher Leadership.

**Jill Moldenhauer** has been a transition teacher for 15 years, 11 of which have been with Hinsdale High School District 86. For the last 3 years, she has been a Transition Facilitator with the district helping connect students and families to transition services and adult service providers. Jill has her LBS-II in transition and multiple disabilities as well as her M.Ed. in teacher leadership and special education leadership.

**Ashley Principe** has been a special education teacher for 15 years, working for 5 years in Chicago Public Schools and for the last 10 years at the Hinsdale District 86 Transition Center. She currently serves as the program's Vocational Coordinator. She earned an LBS-II in Transition and has a M. Ed. in Teacher Leadership.



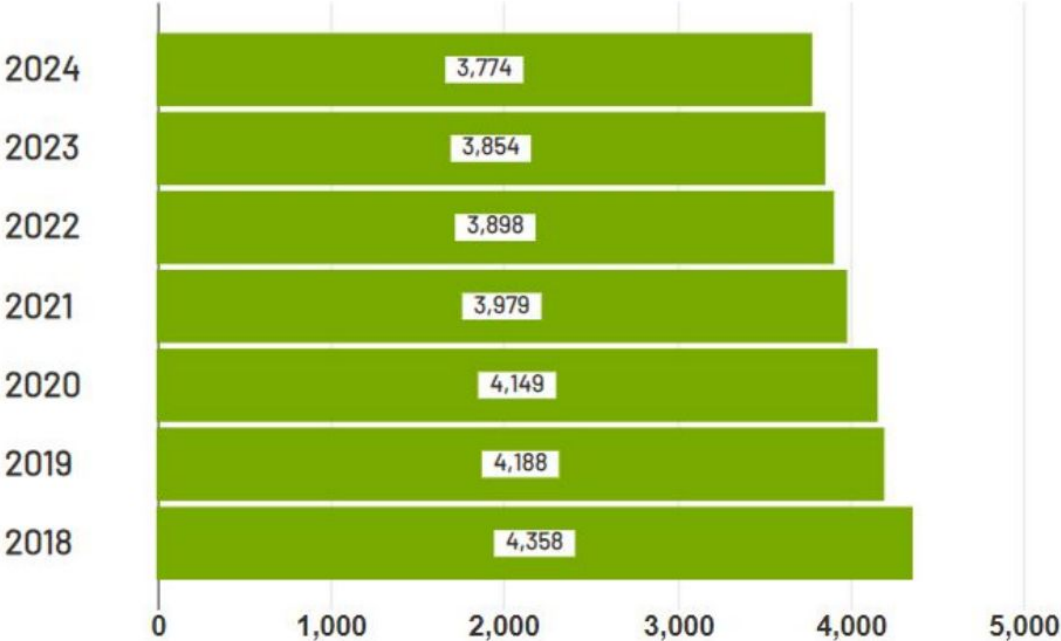
# Outcomes

Participants will gather:

- Information on the programming we developed and how it works;
- Data and information from how we got there;
- How we, as a district, made it happen;
- What we have identified and learned from its implementation; and
- How we are using that to continue to move forward.

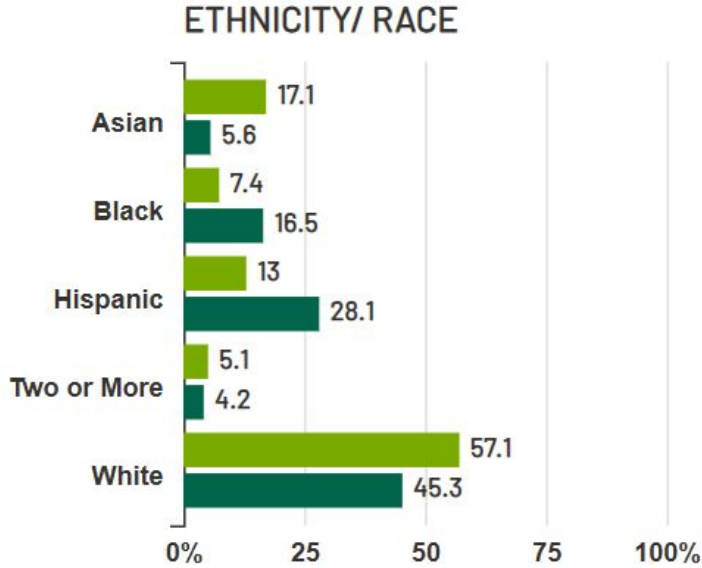


# D86 2024 Enrollment

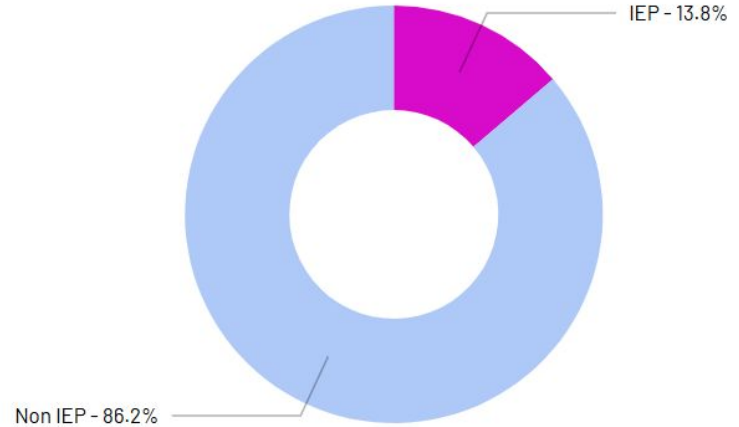


# D86 Demographics

■ District ■ State



% Students with IEPs - 2024



# District Transition Services Spending Overview

## Funding Sources:

- Local Dollars
- IDEA Grant
- DRS STEP/ PECT Funding
  - Curricular Cash
  - College Tuition
  - Books and Supplies
  - Online Learning Platforms
  - Staff Salaries



# 2015 VS 2025

Areas of Growth	2015	2025
Staffing	4 teachers, 1 teacher leader, 1 SLP, 1 social worker, district shared OT and PT, 1 department chair	9 teachers, 5 teacher leaders, 3 SLP (1 full-time, 2 part-time), 3 social workers (1 full-time, 2 part-time), 1 full-time OT, district shared PT, Director and Assistant Director
Organization of Programming	1 group for those with more significant needs and other groups rotated to teachers by content	Organized by Pathways based on post-school outcomes
Physical Space	2 small spaces	3 large spaces (2 Transition Centers and 1 classroom at community college)
Transportation	4 daily shuttles	2024- 12 daily bus shuttles, 2 district SUVs, 2 permanent cabs 2025- 9 daily bus shuttles, 2 district SUVs, intermittent cabs
Enrollment	31 students	92 students (High of 125 students)



# Original Proposal & Timeline

Step 1

**OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2015**  
GATHER AND ANALYZE  
DISTRICT POST-SECONDARY  
DATA AND COMPARE TO  
NATIONAL DATA  
IDENTIFIED NEED

Step 2

**JANUARY- MARCH 2016**  
MEET WITH STAKEHOLDERS  
(OTHER PROGRAMS, COMM.  
COLLEGE, DRS, ETC.).  
RESEARCH SUCCESSFUL POST-  
SECONDARY OPTIONS.  
MAKE A PLAN.

Step 3

**MARCH- APRIL 2016**  
COMPILE RESEARCH AND  
WRITE PROGRAM PROPOSAL

Step 4

**APRIL- MAY 2016**  
PRESENT AND SUBMIT  
PROPOSAL TO BOE

APPROVED!

Step 5

**MAY 2016**  
STUDENT RECRUITMENT  
  
STAFF RECRUITMENT

Step 6

**AUGUST 2016**  
REGISTER NEW STUDENTS  
  
1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF BRIDGE



# Additional Programmatic Tweaks

Step 1

**FALL 2016**

SHORTENED SCHOOL DAY BY 1 HOUR TO ADD STAFF COLLABORATION TIME AND BETTER MODEL ADULT SERVICES TIMEFRAME

Step 2

**FALL 2018**

ADDED ASSESSMENT/ RUBRIC TO HELP IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE PATHWAYS FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

Step 3

**FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020**

FURTHER DEFINED PATHWAYS BASED ON STUDENT OUTCOMES

Step 4

**FALL 2019 AND FALL 2020**

DEDICATED SPACE AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND INCREASED DISTRICT SPACE

Step 5

**FALL 2020**

ADDED 2 TRANSITION FACILITATOR ROLES- ONE TO SUPPORT TRADITIONAL PROGRAMMING AND ONE FOR COLLEGE SUPPORTS

Step 6

**FALL 2022**

ONE FULL-TIME DEDICATED VOCATIONAL COORDINATOR





# TRANSITION SERVICES RUBRIC AREAS

Course Programming	Employment/Work Experience
Academic Accommodations	Career Awareness
Academic Modifications	Self-Advocacy
Class Supports	Executive Functioning
Related Services	Work Completion/Independence
Environmental Control	Independent Living
Grades	Social/Recreation Leisure
Attendance	Transportation

Rubric given spring of junior year:

- Student
- Parent
- Case Manager/School team

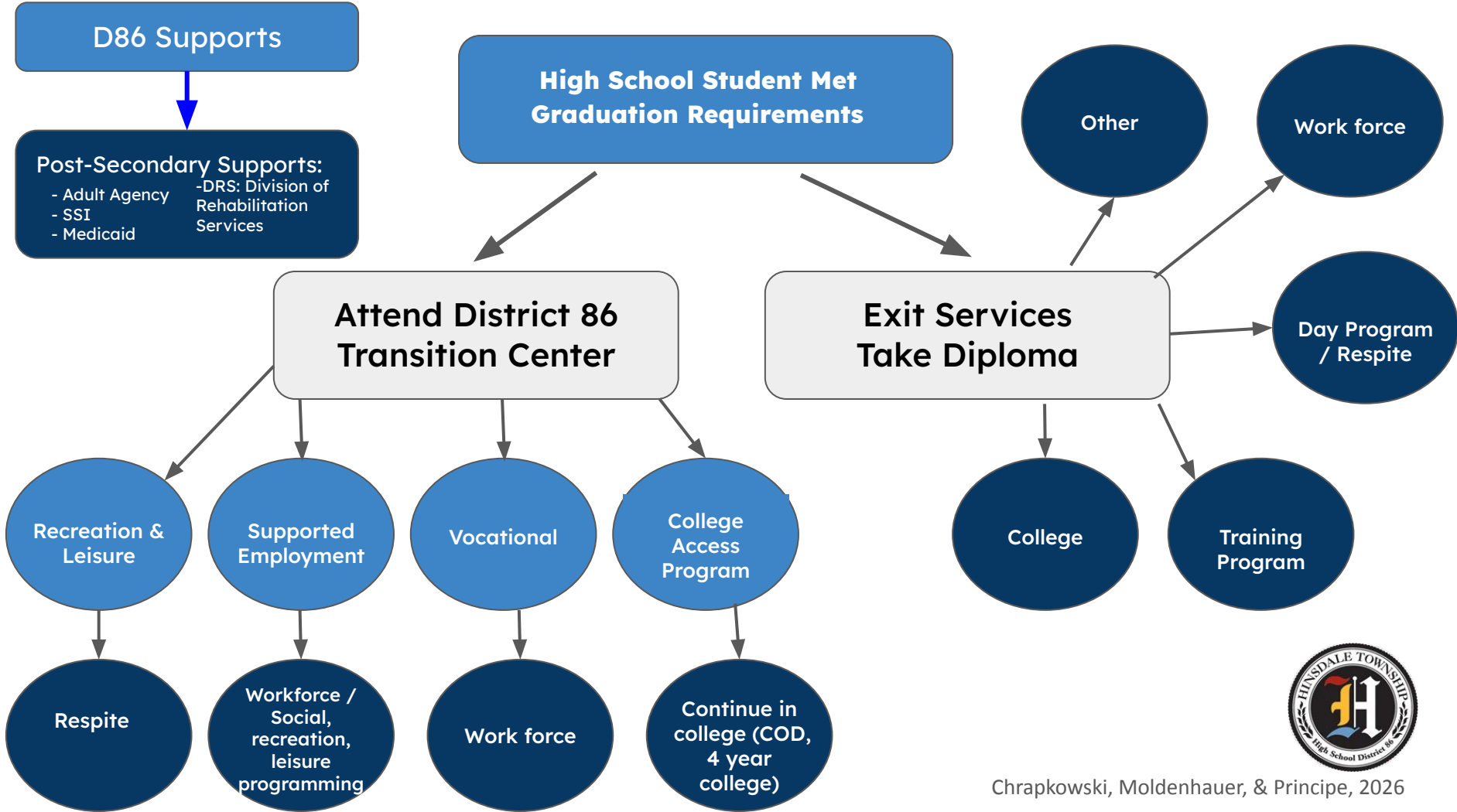
Information gathered from 16 areas representing indicators of post-secondary success. Developed as an additional tool to determine initial transition program pathway.



# Supporting Seniors

- Attending junior and senior IEP meetings
- Informal transition meetings in fall and spring of senior year
- Shadow Days
- Class presentations- underclassman and upperclassman





**D86 Supports**

**High School Student Met Graduation Requirements**

Other

Work force

**Post-Secondary Supports:**

- Adult Agency
- SSI
- Medicaid
- DRS: Division of Rehabilitation Services

**Attend District 86 Transition Center**

**Exit Services Take Diploma**

Day Program / Respite

Recreation & Leisure

Supported Employment

Vocational

College Access Program

College

Training Program

Respite

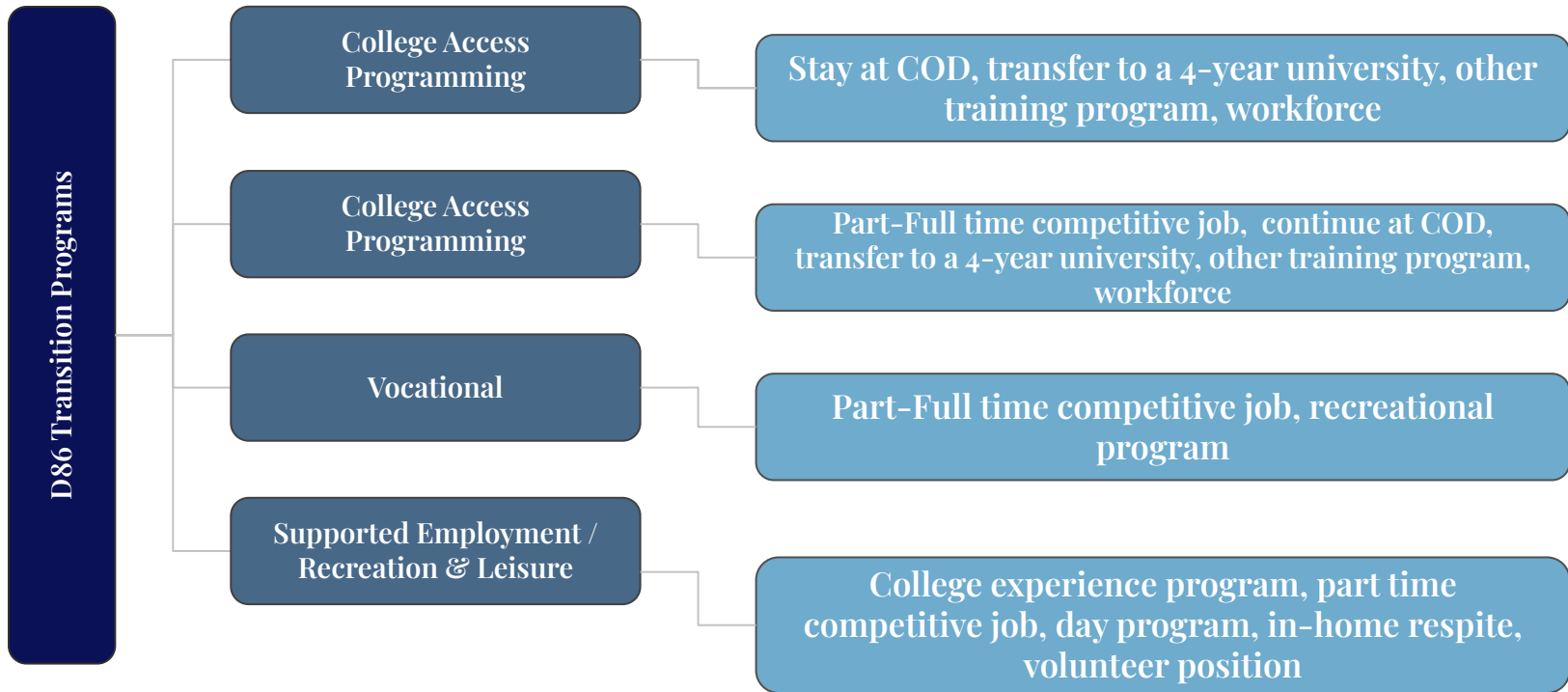
Workforce / Social, recreation, leisure programming

Work force

Continue in college (COD, 4 year college)



# Where do our young adults go after they exit?



# Sample Schedules by Pathway

Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# Supported Employment and Recreation Pathway

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting/ CBI Prep
9:00-10:00	Vocational Internship	Fitness	Vocational Internship	Fitness	Community-Based Instruction
10:00-11:00					
11:00-12:00	Lunch/ Rec & Leisure	Lunch/ Rec & Leisure	Lunch/ Rec & Leisure	Lunch/ Rec & Leisure	
12:00-1:00	Shopping/ Cooking	Social Communication	Vocational Skills	Community Volunteer	
1:00-2:00		Art Group	Banking		

Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# Vocational Pathway

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	Morning Business	Morning Business	Morning Business/ CBI Prep	Morning Business	Morning Business
9:00-10:00	Fitness	Employment	Community-Based Instruction	Fitness	Shopping/ Cooking
10:00-11:00		Money Management			
11:00-12:00	Lunch, Rec/ Leisure	Lunch, Rec/ Leisure		Lunch, Rec/ Leisure	Lunch, Rec/ Leisure
12:00-1:00	Vocational Internship 1	Vocational Internship 2		Vocational Internship 2	Vocational Internship 1
1:00-2:00					

Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# College Access Pathway 1

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	Morning Business	Head to Community College	Morning Business	Head to Community College	Head to Community College
9:00-10:00	Vocational Internship	Community College Classes	Vocational Internship	Community College Classes	Intro to College Life
10:00-11:00					Community-Based Instruction
11:00-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
12:00-1:00	Independent Living	Check Ins	Money Management	Check Ins	
1:00-2:00	Self-Determination	Related Services	Employment	Related Services	

Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# College Access Pathway 2

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-9:00	Community College Class		Community College Class		
9:00-10:00	Community College Class	Community College Class	Community College Class	Community College Class	CAP College Stress Management
10:00-11:00	Learning Commons	CAP Check-In	Learning Commons	1:1 Related Service Time	CAP Check-In
11:00-12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:00-1:00	Professor Office Hours	Library		Library	
1:00-2:00					
2:00	Transportation Home	Transportation Home	Transportation Home	Transportation Home	Transportation Home

Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# Family Resources to Support Post-School Outcomes & Success

- Creating resources with information for families
  - Resource Guide- day programs, college supports, rec/ leisure opportunities, advocacy groups, etc.
  - Transition Tidbits
  - Parent presentations
- Tours of post-secondary opportunities- day programs, vocational support programs, alternative college programs
- Informal meetings outside of IEPs
- Get on the list nights



Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026



# Our Transition Center Website:

<https://transitioncenter.hinsdale86.org/transition-resources>

## Transition Tidbit Resource Library

English/Spanish 1 Pager	YouTube Video
<a href="#">ABLE Accounts (SSI approved)</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">Adaptive Kitchen Equipment</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">Adaptive Clothing</a>	
<a href="#">What is AIM-CIL?</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">Anxiety</a>	
<a href="#">COD &amp; the COD COACH Program</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">College Experience Programs</a>	
<a href="#">Conferences &amp; Trainings for Parents</a>	
<a href="#">Learning to Drive- Marianjoy</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">What is DRS and How Does it Help After Age 22?</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>
<a href="#">What are DRS Home Services?</a>	<a href="#">YouTube Video</a>

English/Spanish 1 Pager	YouTube Video
<a href="#">How Do I Teach Them to Do That? Prompting</a>	
<a href="#">Public Transportation Options</a>	
<a href="#">What is PUNS?</a>	
<a href="#">Register Your Home with Local Fire/Police Departments</a>	
<a href="#">What are Related Service Providers?</a>	
<a href="#">Relationships, Dating, &amp; Sexual Health</a>	
<a href="#">What is Respite?</a>	
<a href="#">Services After Age 22</a>	
<a href="#">Skilled Trades Careers</a>	
<a href="#">What are Social Stories?</a>	
<a href="#">Social Media Awareness and Safety</a>	



HINSDALE TRANSITION CENTER  
High School District 86

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HINSDALE TRANSITION CENTER

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## Presentation Recordings

[Tackling Transition Topics](#)

[Post-School Tour Information](#)

The D86 Transition Program collaborates with surrounding districts to put on monthly seminars around important transition topics.

**\*Ofrecemos interpretacion en Español\***

Seminars are typically held on

### 2025-2026 Seminars

- [▶ Making the Most of Transition](#)
- [▶ West Suburban Options Fair! October 15 at Morton West](#)
- [▶ Post-School Vocational Supports - Nov 19, 2025](#)



Chrapkowski, Moldenhauer, & Principe, 2026

# Community Partnerships to Support Post-School Outcomes & Success

- Support with government benefits from adult agencies
- Relationships with adult service providers- day programs, alternative college programs, assistive technology, etc.
- Home-Based Services vs community services
- Vocational supports outside of DRS
- Center for Access and Accommodations (college disability services)



# Resources to Support Programming Development

- Use local volunteers to provide opportunities- yoga, art, job talks, etc.
- Utilize your connections, neighbors, and community
  - Think park district, doctors, non-profits, chamber of commerce, etc.
  - Have an elevator speech and brochure about your program to give to increase buy-in to help support students



# Vocational Partnerships

## Assisted Living Communities

- Dining services, Maintenance, Activities, Reception/Office

## School Districts

- Clerical, Custodial, Library

## Restaurants

- Pre-Opening Tasks, Bussing Tables, Rolling Silverware

## Hotels

- Housekeeping/Laundry, Custodial

## Libraries

- Shelving Books, Cleaning Children's Area/Books/DVDs

## Offices

- Data Entry, Assembling Mailers

## Stores

- Stocking, Expiration Dates

## Hospitals

- Stocking PPE Cabinets

## Warehouses

- Assembly Line, Inventory, Order Picker

## Fitness Facilities

- Custodial/Laundry



# Vocational Data Collection

## What we were missing...

- Numerical data for goals and benchmarking
- Objective data to include in IEP present levels
- Concrete data to support recommendations for competitive work

## How it will help us...

- Measure progress around soft skills in a reportable way
- Identify IEP goal areas
- Help job assistants reflect on where to focus their attention during volunteer shifts



# Pre-ETS Systems

- Developed documentation systems through G Suite to track and record work hours, work sites, Pre-ETS case notes, site case notes
- Established DRS Liaisons at each high school to assist with gathering necessary contract information
- Use of Adobe sign to assist with multiple modalities of providing PECT referral documents
- Presentations to guidance counselors, SPED department yearly



# On Campus/Community College Partnerships

Access and Accommodations

Learning Commons

Counseling Office

Career Services

Continuing Education

FERPA

Financial Aid

Student Life

On-Campus Student Employment



# Measuring Impact: Post-Secondary Outcome Data



# Student Outcomes: Employment

# 43%

Competitive Employment Rate

*vs. ~24% National Average*

Nearly double the national benchmark

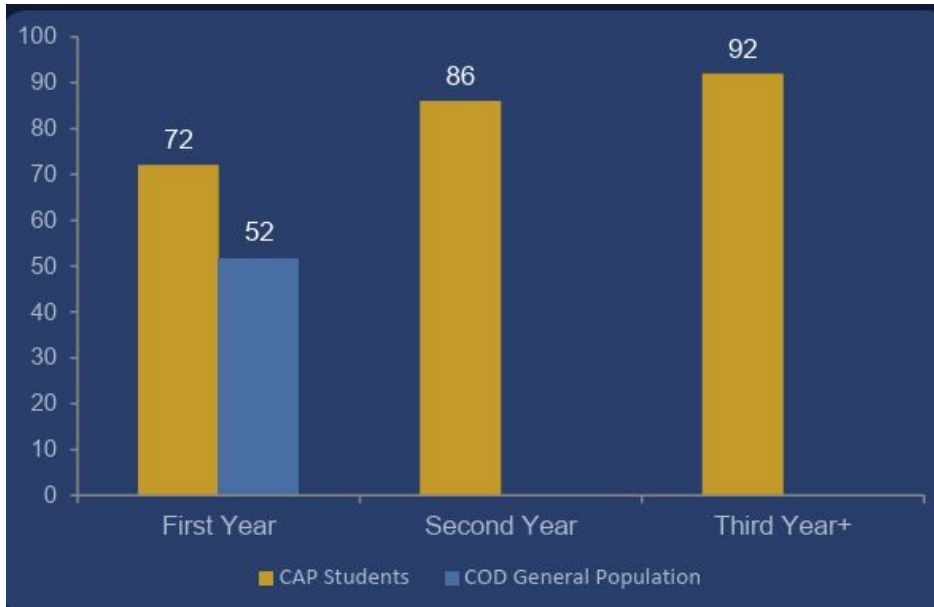
## 67 Students Exited Over 3 Years

Competitive Employment	43% (29)
Adult Day Programming	19% (13)
Community College	18% (12)
Combined Work + College	12% (8)
College Experience Programs	9% (6)

Diverse employer partners: G&W Electric, Brookhaven Market, Birches, Culver's, First Student, and more



# Student Outcomes: College Persistence



## Key Insights

- First-year persistence of 72% exceeds COD general population rate
- Persistence rates increase over time — from 72% to 86% to 92%
- Proactive weekly check-ins and early intervention drive these results
- Students balance college and part-time employment successfully



# Goals to Keep Moving Forward, 2025-2030

By May 2026, the leadership team will gather data about how many transition age students are **ready to meet their post-school outcomes** the day after they exit school-based services.

By May 2026, all students with vocational outcomes will have a minimum of **3 internship experiences** on their resume.

By May 2027, **additional vocational data will be gathered outside of IEP goals** to determine instructional needs to be addressed through programming.

By May 2028, all parents and students will become **aware of our community resource supports** such as the Resource Guide, Transition Tidbits, Now Hiring Page, and college campus resources.

By May 2030, the leadership team will **gather informal Indicator 14 data** about students' participation in post-school outcomes 1-5 years after exiting school-based services.



# Link to Vocational Data Google Form



Student Data Collection Form Template



**Feel free to contact us:**

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