

## WHAT IS A SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE (SOP)?

The Summary of Performance (SOP) is required under the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004). The language as stated in IDEA 2004 regarding the SOP is as follows:

*"For a child whose eligibility under special education terminates due to graduation with a regular diploma, or due to exceeding the age of eligibility, the local education agency shall provide the child with a summary of the child's academic achievement and functional performance, which shall include recommendations on how to assist the child in meeting the child's postsecondary goals".*

## WHO GETS AN SOP?

- Must: Students who are graduating with a general education diploma to assist them in meeting their post-secondary goals
- Must: Students who are leaving school because they exceed the age of eligibility for a free appropriate public education (end of school year in which they turn 26) to assist them in meeting their post-secondary goals.
- Recommended that school districts provide a Summary of Performance for students who leave school before age 26 and have not met the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

## SOP: WHERE'S THE DATA COMING FROM?

- REEDs, METs, School data, teacher reports, social work reports, other ancillary reports, student portfolios, others?
- Include dates of reports, academic assessments (state or district), transition assessments, vocational assessments and staff updates.
- Academic achievement: Cognitive ability/approximate IQ, Information on reading, math, and language grade levels, standardized scores, or strengths.
- Functional performance: Information on learning styles, attitudes, social skills, independent living skills, self-determination, career/vocational skills, decision making, independent living, motor, social behavioral, communication, community living.
- A description of the educational program reflecting a locally issued certificate of completion. (Transcripts, program summary, etc.).
- Honors or special awards the student achieved in high school
- Vocational or extracurricular accomplishments of the student
- Student perspective (see suggested form) or similar
- Work experiences during high school; skill development and documentation
- Recommendations: Team suggestions for accommodations, assistive services, compensatory strategies for post-secondary education, employment, independent living, and community participation.
- Think: For example: What do college faculty and staff need to know to best support students with disabilities in post-secondary education setting.
- Or: What does an agency need to know to support a student find a job or be successful in the workplace?
- *Remember these are recommendations, not mandates*

## SOP: ACCOMMODATIONS PROVIDED

- Statements or lists of accommodations provided for the student
- Academic and functional supports within all educational environments
- Problem: not binding for post-school support agency or provider
- But Remember: This information does provide indication of likely need

## FOCUS ON SOP TIMING:

- The SOP must be completed during the final year of a student's high school education
- The timing of completion of the SOP may vary depending on the student's post-secondary goals
- If a student is transitioning to higher education, the SOP, with additional documentation, may be necessary as the student applies to a college or university

## WHO'S YOUR AUDIENCE FOR THE SOP????

- MRS (Michigan Rehabilitation Services)
- Bureau of Services for Blind People
- Post-secondary education
- Community Agencies (Community Mental Health, others)
- Employers
- Others?

## WHAT AN AGENCY MAY NEED TO KNOW

- Strengths/capabilities
- Functional Limitations
- Vocational Experiences (work study)
- Interests
- Work ethic
- Ability to work cooperatively with others
- Related factors/Family supports/Transportation
- Motivation/Initiative
- Others?

## CHALLENGES?

- Current relevant information
- Unusual career goals
- Lack of student work experience
- Impact of staffing and funds
- Attending IEPs
- Work Study Opportunities
- Student/Family follow up to complete the intake process post referral
- Others?

Overall an SOP is a comprehensive tool for a young adult to use as guidance upon leaving high school.