

CDS Report Information

Title of Report: *Families' Experiences and Expectations: Transition Partnership Project Evaluation*

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Abstract:

The Transition Partnership Project (TPP) is a university- and community-based education program of the Red Clay Consolidated School District (RCCSD) serving young adults ages 18-21 years old who have moderate to severe cognitive disabilities. At least every two years, a University faculty liaison to the TPP conducts a formal evaluation of the program. The overarching purpose of the evaluation is to provide information that the RCCSD program staff and the TPP Advisory Committee can use to improve the program. The specific focus of each evaluation is jointly decided by the RCCSD program staff, University liaison, and the Advisory Committee.

The primary purpose of the 2003 program evaluation was to inform program development by examining two valued program attributes: *family involvement* and *student work experiences*. We looked at these issues in terms of families' experiences and expectations for student development resulting from their children's and their own participation in TPP.

A secondary purpose of the 2003 evaluation was to review the *status of the program assessment system*, which has been in development since the previous program evaluation. The program assessment system is intended to be a data collection and reporting process that, over time, can provide summary information to the program staff and Advisory Committee about all participating students' experiences, goals, and outcomes at multiple points in time: entry into the program, each year in the program, at exit from the program, and 6- and 18-months after exiting the program.

Additionally, at the time the evaluation was being planned, a graduate student assistant assigned to the TPP was creating an *informational and interactive website* for students and families associated with TPP. Given that we were already gathering information from families about their experiences and expectations of the program, we decided to ask the families additional questions about their ideas for the content of the website and whether the website would be of interest and accessible to them. This became a third purpose for the 2003 evaluation.