Preparing Youth in Special Education for Life After High School


KEY FINDINGS

- **Socioeconomic challenges.** Youth with an IEP are more likely than a decade ago to live in households that face economic challenges.
- **School engagement.** In the past decade, youth with an IEP have become more engaged in school and extracurricular activities, but there was little change in grade retention, suspensions, and expulsions.
- **Supports.** Youth with an IEP are more likely than in the past to receive supports at school but less likely to get them at home.
- **Transition activities.** Participation in some key transition activities declined, though not in IEP meetings.
- **Disability groups.** Youth with emotional disturbance and intellectual disability made progress in more ways than did those in other disability groups.

Growth in economic challenges faced by youth with an IEP 2003-2012:

- Increase in receipt of SNAP food assistance: 17%
- Increase in parent with no job: 5%

Trends for youth with an IEP (2003-2012)

- 8 percentage points Employed in high school
- 19 percentage points Parents discuss transition plans
- 21 percentage points Receive school supports
- 13 percentage points Participate in clubs and sports
- 21 percentage points Feel part of school

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