



The Think College National Coordinating Center: Improving Inclusive Postsecondary Education Practice and Outcomes

OUR MISSION.

The National Coordinating Center (NCC) is one of the three programs funded under the federal TPSID Initiative and serves as the the TPSID:CC. It provides coordination and evaluation of Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSID) programs funded by the Office of Postsecondary Education, US Department of Education. The NCC also offers technical assistance to TPSIDs and other postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disability nationally, develops related resources, disseminates information about college opportunities for students with intellectual disability, and supports students and their families to learn about and prepare for college.

WHO WE HELP.

The availability of postsecondary education options for students with intellectual disability is still staggeringly limited. To ensure continued and expanded access, the NCC provides colleges and universities with support to develop and improve postsecondary programs and ensures students and their families have the necessary information and strategies to build expectations and motivation to seek higher education. Through its training, materials, and on demand help desk, the NCC is responsive to the needs of a broad and diverse group of stakeholders including families, students with intellectual disability, teachers and transition professionals, college and university faculty, researchers, policy leaders, and state/local agencies involved in the lives of adults with intellectual disability.

HOW WE DO IT.

The NCC works with currently and formerly funded TPSIDs to capture annual performance data and student outcomes; assist professionals involved in the TPSID program to use these data to reflect on and improve practice; and inform others on emerging practices that demonstrate promise. The center produces a wide array of accessible digital and print materials, such as research and evaluation reports, fast facts, research to practice briefs, student stories, and conference presentations, as well as multimedia resources such as short films, online learning modules, and webinars. The NCC shares these resources through its dissemination channels, keeping people informed about emerging practices, policies, and tools.

Quality services and outcomes are critical in higher education for students with intellectual disability. The NCC convened the first national workgroup of experts to develop model accreditation standards and identify the key components of higher education programs for students with intellectual disability. These efforts have resulted in an approved set of model accreditation standards, as well as guidance and draft processes for implementation.



SELECTED PRODUCTS AND OUTCOMES OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER (2010–2025)

Technical Assistance and Training

- Provided help to over 6,000 families, students, & professionals via our help desk
- Conducted annual data-based technical assistance meetings with staff from every TPSID program
- Developed over 180 briefs, how-to guides, and fast facts
- Maintained a resource library with over 1,000 selected resources on a wide range of topics related to postsecondary education for people with intellectual disability



Evaluation and Research

- Collected and analyzed data on over 5,000 students who have attended TPSID programs, including post-graduation outcomes
- Produced 13 comprehensive annual reports about TPSID programs in 129 colleges and universities in 34 states
- Produced 10 peer-reviewed journal articles and multiple reports and data summaries

Accountability and Quality

- Established an Accreditation Workgroup which developed accreditation standards for higher education programs for students with intellectual disability
- Developed and piloted a program accreditation process that can be used to accredit college and university programs for students with intellectual disability
- Created and disseminated materials on credential development and program sustainability strategies



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