Indicator 13:
Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments

What is age-appropriate transition assessment?

- "…ongoing process of collecting data on the individual's needs, preferences, and interests as they relate to the demand of current and future working, educational, living and personal and social environments." ((The Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT))
- Age appropriate means a student's chronological, rather than developmental age (DCDT).
- Age-appropriate transition assessments can be formal or informal and may come from a variety of sources. Best practice would be to use a combination of various types. A parent/student interview alone is not sufficient.

What is the purpose of age-appropriate transition assessment?

- The goal of age-appropriate transition assessment is to:
  - Help students make informed choices.
  - Help students take charge of the transition process.
  - Help students understand the skills needed for post-school environments.
- Age-appropriate transition assessments provide information to help develop and write practical and achievable measurable postsecondary goals.
- Age-appropriate transition assessments provide a means to obtain data that serves as a common thread in the transition process and forms the basis for defining goals and services to be included in the IEP.
- The data obtained from age-appropriate transition assessments assists the IEP team to help:
  - Develop realistic and meaningful Measurable Post-Secondary Goals (MPSGs) along with IEP goals and objectives;
  - Make instructional programming decisions;
  - Provide information for the PLAAFP (TIENET Transition IEP form) related to a student's strengths, interests, preferences and needs;
  - Learn about student's strengths outside of academics and about their career ambitions;
  - Make connections between a student's individual academic program and the student's post-school ambitions.

When should transition assessments be conducted?

- Transition services must be in place prior to the student's reaching age 16 or earlier if the IEP team agrees it is appropriate; therefore, age-appropriate transition assessments should be administered and data gathered **prior** to the development of the MPSGs.
- Transition assessment information should be collected and updated at least **annually**.