



Commonly Used Transition Assessments in South Dakota

Enderle Severson Transition Rating Scales (ESTR)

The ESTR is an excellent basic assessment tool for identifying strengths and needs in various transition areas, which also includes a questionnaire on identifying postsecondary goals. Three versions of this assessment are available for students of different functioning levels, with both parent and school protocols. By sitting down and completing the ESTR-J (for students with mild to moderate disabilities) with a student can be a good way to get to know that student better. The ESTR-III is for students with moderate to severe disabilities, and the ESTR-S is for students with the most significant disabilities.

Transition Planning Inventory - 2 (TPI-2)

The TPI is an excellent starting tool for identifying various transition strengths/needs, which also includes a questionnaire on postsecondary goal identification. The TPI covers forty-six transition items. Data from Student, Home, and School forms can be assembled into a Profile and Further Assessment Recommendations synthesis. A new interest assessment was added to the second edition. Companion materials for further assessment are available. The questions are the same for transitioning students of all ability levels.

SD MyLife– Available to all students in South Dakota through SD Career & Technical Education office. SD My-Life is the state-purchased Guidance suite recommended for state-required 8th grade interest assessment and 10th grade aptitude assessment. The computer-based portfolio program is accessed using a student ID and password. SD MyLife can be used for assessment, career research, planning coursework, ACT preparation, portfolio development; and it is available free of charge to SD students in grades 6-12. Many features match Indicator 13 requirements.

Some advantages of this tool include:

- Can help students to identify and set both employment & education/training postsecondary goals
- “Ongoing” in nature and can be revisited over time—a portfolio can be developed-Parent portal is available

Disadvantages:

- Not a strong tool for identifying transition strengths and needs
- Students with significant disabilities may require one-on-one assistance to derive much benefit

Transition Tackle Box – Quickbook of Transition Assessments - www.tslp.org

These informal assessments cover a wide range of transition topics and can be excellent sources of supplemental or further transition assessment information. If using these assessments only, make certain the chosen assessments help students to establish postsecondary goals, and identify strengths and needs related to employment, further education/training & independent living.

ASVAB Career Exploration (Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery)

The ASVAB is an additional assessment tool for career research for students who are unsure of their future plans. It is free, available to all students at most high schools, incorporates interests and aptitudes (strengths), can be used for military entrance.

Disadvantages: Viewed by some as just a military entrance exam, usually given junior year (however 10th and 12th graders can also participate), may not provide useful information for students who do not do well on paper and pencil testing.

Structured Interviews and Questionnaires

Advantages: Quick, can verify interests and preferences, can target specific transition areas.

Disadvantages: may not be very thorough, not the best for students who are unsure of what they will do in the future, these may not account for aptitudes, not strong in assessing transition strengths and needs since answers may come from one respondent.

Job shadowing/Unpaid Internships and/or Project Skills Reports

Paper and pencil or computer-based transition assessments may not always be the best way to gain insight into the interests, preferences, and strengths of some students. Many students may be better able to identify interests, preferences, and strengths after getting out of the classroom and into the real world. Information from these experiences can be documented and reviewed at the IEP meeting as part of a career development process.

Paid Work Experience (Evaluations and History) Job performance information from employers, job coaches or the student can provide information useful to the transition planning process.

College or Postsecondary Education Assessments

- ACT Aspire – Measures college readiness from grades 3 through 10
- Explore – 9th grade pre-ACT – being phased out in favor of the Aspire
- PSAT – Junior year
- ACT – Junior and Senior years
- ACCUPLACER – Entrance/Placement assessment used at many tech schools – Replacing the Compass for entrance and placement at many postsecondary schools
- COMPASS – Used as a placement examination (English and Math) at many universities – was previously the preferred entrance exam at South Dakota’s Technical Schools.

Postsecondary Education Checklists for students with disabilities

(see Catch the Wave Manual or QuickBook) www.tslp.org

Supplements more general transition assessments like the ESTR or TPI-2

Highly encouraged for students considering postsecondary education.

Ansell- Casey Life Skills <http://lifeskills.casey.org/>

Originally developed for youth in foster care. This free tool is very strong in assessing strengths and needs of at-risk, SLD, ED students in the life skills area. Also covers other transition areas in a culturally aware manner.

Transition Assessment and Goal Generator (TAGG) – An on-line protocol for student, family and school that assesses behaviors and experiences associated with success in post school employment and education. TSLP can assist schools to try out this tool.

Person-Centered Thinking/Planning Tools

These tools can help planning teams to identify job and career options for students with significant disabilities who require more in-depth tools (to supplement traditional interest and aptitude surveys) for the identification of career and life goals. The SD Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Rehabilitation Services both use these tools to assist youth and adults. SD Parent Connection has certified trainers.

Situational Assessments

A tool used by Vocational Rehabilitation to help people to try out jobs of interest to see how they do at a job or a few job sites. An employment support professional observes and records information.

School Attendance Records – may help teams when planning with a student for employment and/or further education/training.

Ability Assessment – A review of existing Ability scores can help the IEP Team to identify relative strengths and needs that can be helpful in transition planning.

AIR Self-Determination Scale

Paper and pencil tool – quick to administer – good for individuals or a small group

Learning Styles Assessments

Students can review results with a teacher or counselor to gain insight into how they prefer to learn information. This can be helpful in deciding what further education or training matches how the student learns best. SDMyLife includes a learning styles assessment

High School Capstone Experiences – SD Career and Tech Ed promotes Youth Internships, Senior Experiences and Entrepreneurship Experiences for all students at high schools around the state. Participating in these experiences can help all students, including those with disabilities, to refine their career goals and build some skills

Assistive Technology Assessment – Often overlooked, but can assist students to identify low and high-tech tools that will help them to be more successful with employment, post-secondary education and training, and independent living. DakotaLink is one source for these assessments.

Brigance Transition Skills Inventory – This highly-structured formal assessment helps to identify strengths and needs that can be used to develop individualized transition instruction.

ICAP – Inventory for Client and Agency Planning. This adaptive behavior assessment (for youth and adults) is currently used by the South Dakota Division of Developmental Disabilities to establish eligibility for Waiver services including Family Support 360 and HCBS.

Adult Agency Checklist – Originally part of the Quick Book of Transition Assessments, this tool can be used by Parents or School staff to identify agencies that can assist students as they transition to adulthood.

ITransition App – Free Online 13 part questionnaire that students can complete to help them to understand and develop transition plans. This tool provides specific recommendations for services and activities. Works well for a transition class, or can be done individually as well. Currently is updated to include South Dakota information.

Supplementary Aptitude and Interest Assessments – The Oasis-3 (Occupational Aptitude Survey and Interest Schedule) is one normed paper and pencil assessment that helps students to compare their results to over 20,000 jobs in the Dictionary of Occupational titles.

Indiana Transition Assessment Matrix – helps to identify possible transition assessments based on: Postsecondary goal area(s), the Student's grade level and Student's disability. https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/styles/iidc/defiles/cclc/transition_matrix/transition_matrix.html