

















































































































































advice.

- Teacher of SE were the best and learning the computer help me.
- Teachers interest in oneself. They were really helpful
- Teachers worked diligently with him. I thought we were doing well, but moved in with birth mom.
- Teaching m ehow to be better in a social environment. The tech portion helping us with portfolios and getting us advanced in important things. Example certified for culinary opportunities.
- Tech classes, writing, math.
- technology skills
- technology skills and time/management organizational skills
- Technology skills were most helpful because my high school did a good job emphasizing my learning it. But they didn't teach many life skills that I needed more.
- Technology skills, Independent living skills, social skills.
- Technology skills. Because it will help me operate any technology used in my future workplace.
- Technology skills/study skills/ learning strategies.
- The [course name] course that I took.
- The [program name] program helped prepare me for the rigours of a college course load.
- The accommodations and modifications were helpful.
- The agreiscience program and the FFAC future farmers of America taught me how to better my social skills.
- The ALP program at [high school]. Social worker prepared me for transition.
- The amount of support I recieved from the principal, from my special ed teachers [name] and [name], and the Social Worker.
- The assistance provided by aid in class. It helped me learn faster.
- The availability of school counselors/social workers
- The class that taught him how to be part of the business world.
- The classes, because they taught me about real-life situation.
- The communication class was helpful to learn about public speaking.
- The counseling.
- The daily classes and working in the after school program
- The ECE credits that I received for passing Uconn courses at the high school.
- The electrical program at [SCHOOL NAME] and apprentiec program.
- The high school sent me out because they didn't have what I needed there
- The large school, with all the various people who attended the HS. The resource Room was helpful with time management and organizational skills, self advocacy.
- The last two years with one one one with special education aides.
- The Learning Strategies classes I had for all four years of my High School career.
- The life skills and social. I attended [SCHOOL NAME] in [TOWN NAME]

since 4th grade til 12th grade then [SCHOOL NAME] in [TOWN NAME] til 21. I am still there.

- The most helpful part of high school was the special education classroom and teachers, and having them teach me to not be afraid to ask questions. I also learned to not be afraid of who I am and that students do not care about my disability. I shouldn't care about what other people think.
- The most helpful part of my high school education is that it help me prepare for the skills i need to succeed in college
- The most helpful part was time management, since I'm juggling multiple classes that demand much from me.
- The most helpful thing I did in [high school] is keeping up with my grades so I wont fall behind on my IEP.
- The most important part of high school was the wood workingand car shop.
- The most usefully part of high was helping with social skills. As well as Time management
- The part of high school that helped the most was basic learning skill that smarted me.
- The part of my high school education that was most helpful in getting me for life after high school is money management.
- The part of my high school education that was most helpful was writing class and computers class.
- The part of my high school that helped me in getting ready for life after I left high school were the different study skills I've obtained and my improvement on Time Management.
- The part when they taught me that I could get a job anywhere but its not easy finding a job.
- The relationships between me and my teachers and social worker.
- The switching of time in a schedule.
- The teachers at the [school name].
- The teachers encouraged us to do our work to the fullest and if didn't start now will only get tougher. Pushed us to the max.
- The technical program for culinary arts helped me to prepare for college.
- The time the Learning Lab teachers took to help me with decisions and timelines.
- The Vo-Ag programs hands on, work experience part
- The vocational classes that I received
- The woman that the board of education fired, [name]. Her being in the Alternative Learning Program at [high school name] was the only reason I made it through.
- The work experience program
- The work experiences - they were only 4-6 weeks but in different types of work.
- The work expierence seeing as to how I didn't expierence too much of high school, since being incarcerated.
- The work load prepared me and the learning time management.
- The workload. It helped me prepare for college.

- Therapy, both physical and speech. Participation in [activities].
- Transition class in 12th grade. Our HS is very competitive; they prepared me well academically
- Transition to work program
- Transitional program at [SCHOOL NAME].
- Trips to different campuses and college fairs.
- Tutoring was the most helpful for me my tutor was the best
- Typical classrooms. I was successful in a typical classroom and took 300 level and higher classes.
- We had a program called career pathways.
- We mostly did preparation for college.
- When we was doing resumes they were teaching what to say at a interview and how you post to present yourself to others.
- Writing classes.
- Writing for college, Drama club, Honor society, travel club.

### ***Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning Experiences***

- ? Yes I learned computer skills in school but prepare for outside school could have been better. With having [DISABILITY NAME] more skills with interviewing, writing resumes, financing money would have been more helpful.
- [Illegible}, the computer classes, etc.
- Being able to work and be also independent.
- Being in the Job optituty.
- Business and financial classes have helped the most so far.
- By having different careers visiting the school and having the pleasure of working during the school years.
- Career Development
- Career development, no question about it. Class definitely helped me get my foot in the door.
- carpentry skills
- Cave because it gave me the knowledge of how the really world is with getting a job.
- Collision repair training (4 years)
- Doing different kinds of jobs.
- Financial courses such as consumer math
- Getting a job, the teachers
- Getting a job.
- Getting to shadow a groomer for a day helped me realize it was my dream job.
- how to add money and just add number
- HVAC program at [SCHOOL NAME].
- I attended [COLLEGE NAME] in the food service dept.
- I had a lot of work experience and a nice resume and portfolio.
- I think that it was the work experience I had at school. The skills I learned to apply to life.

- I was part of agriculture education program at my high school.
- It was the class where they taught me how to prepare for a job interview and look for jobs, how to fill out an application.
- Job skills both in high school and out of school with job coach.
- Job skills, volunteer work.
- Landscaping was one of the summer jobs that the school helped me experience.
- Learning about work experience on job performance and the duties that applies.
- Learning different trades and math so I can further my education in Business and Accountant services
- off-site job
- the job experience in the Community Partnership Program which was post "graduation". That's it.
- The laboring work, my parents and teachers.
- They helped me get my first job.
- Trade - Auto Body
- Trade training
- Trying different jobs and stretching my abilities in trying new things.
- Work experience
- Work experience and social skills.
- Work experience and study skills
- Work experience class was really helpful
- Work experience on different job sites with a job coach
- Work experience, advocacy, interview skills, social skills, technical skills.
- Work placement as part of IEP.
- Working experience
- Working in the cafeteria for 4 years helped my social skills
- Working in the community.
- Working on jobs in high school program.
- Working with [TEACHER NAME] really helped me organize my work and learn effective study skills.
- Working with my case manager who genuinely understood my issues/problem as a person with [DISABILITY NAME]. She also made me aware and walked me through the basics to steer me towards the things I HAD to do to get at least an idea of where to go for help. BRS, etc.
- working with my counselors.
- Working with my resource teachers helped me reach all of my goals.
- Working with my team and advocating.
- Working with others in group projects and being able to communicate effectively with others in a sophisticated manner.

### ***Youth Development and Leadership***

- (Self Advocacy) I am very shy and quiet individual so I learned to ask if I did not understand something.
- A part of my high school education that was the most helpful was improving my

social skills. At first, I was a very quiet person but once I entered high school, I became very talkative.

- Ability to communicate outside of a school environment ie: employees
- advocacy skills
- After leaving high school I was ready for life getting along with other learning, be on time, organizational skills.
- All of it! Especially use self advocacy skills all the time.
- Asking for help and doing my best to succeed through my education.
- Baking, cooking, getting along with others
- Basic needs of every day living
- Being able to complete a task without help
- being able to live better on my own
- Being independent.
- Being overprotected.
- Being taught self-advocacy and after school help.
- Getting the resources that I need to advocate on my behalf
- Getting to know my teachers and being able to fight for the things I needed to be successful.
- Getting used to a routine. Following directions.
- How to work hard, ask for help with professors and my employer at work if I need help.
- I had to understand what accommodations I need and how I would ask my teachers if I could use it.
- I learned enough to set by in college. I though myself a lot of stuff on my own, I wish my teacher were involved in my teaching.
- I learned how to bear better the crosses of my life when in the environments of secularism.
- I mean I learned a little bit how to write checks but that's it
- I was and still am an [DISABILITY NAME] person who can care for myself. I have [DISABILITY NAME] not social.
- Independence and responsibility
- It prepared me to face the working world and to interact with adults.
- Knowing exactly the definition of my disability
- Knowing that I wasn't alone and that there are programs and organization that can aid me along my way to becoming a responsible adult
- Last 2 years a lot of focus on facing change and preparing for this big change
- Learning how to advocate for myself especially in a classroom setting
- Learn adult living skills/life school, work skills.
- Learning about how to improve my organization and time management skills.
- learning about time management
- Learning good study habits.
- Learning how to budget my time.
- Learning how to budget.
- Learning how to manage money

- Learning how to manage my time.
- Learning self-advocacy and money management has most definitely helped me after leaving high school.
- Learning self-advocacy skills.
- Learning social skills. Working with technology - ipads, computers, talkers. [She] was sick and missed her transition days with the school and her new day program. A HUGE piece was lost as a result.
- Learning time management and organizational skills. Learning how to make outlines.
- Learning to ask for what's needed.
- Learning to continue to handle social situations more proactively
- Learning to make connections with others and to be able to function on my own.
- Learning to self-advocate for myself.
- Learning to stay on task and taking directions. The daily application of skills being emphasized.
- Life skills
- Life skills
- Life skills on everyday life. Shopping for food, things I take personal and health. Money management. Still working. My skills how respect a little more.
- Life skills.
- Money and personal finance. Accounting I.
- Money management - independent living skills social skills work experience
- Money management.
- Money, social skills
- needing to be organized
- Organisational skills have been the most helpful because of the amount of course work in college.
- Organization
- Organization skills and time management
- Self advocacy
- self advocacy
- Self Advocacy
- Self advocacy skills and learning tools and different programs on a computer like microsoft and websites to go to for help write essays and formatting correctly.
- Self advocacy skills at PPT
- Self advocacy, social skills
- Self advocacy.
- Self advocacy. I'm very comfortable taking with my professors.
- Self advocating.
- Self-advocacy
- self-advocacy
- Self-advocacy

- Self-advocacy
- self-advocacy
- Self-advocacy
- self-advocacy - get help when you need it
- Self-advocacy and study skills, though I developed the former out of necessity rather than through any specific program.
- Self-advocacy and time management
- Self-advocacy was one of the most useful skills I developed while in high school. I struggled with it until I entered junior year of high school, and that was when a social worker helped me learn to speak up when I needed academic support.
- Social
- social
- Social and vocational skills.
- Social settings, speech and language pathologist, psychologist, caring teachers.
- Social skills
- Social skills
- Social skills
- social skills
- Social skills
- social skills
- Social skills
- Social skills and self-advocacy.
- Social skills and technology skills and self advocacy
- Social skills, self advocacy
- Social skills, special education
- Social skills.
- Social worker in early grades helped me learn to understand my feelings and express them appropriately.
- Socializing with the other person to interact and socialize.
- Teaching me self-advocacy skills and making me realize just because I learn differently doesn't mean I'm dumb.
- Teaching me to be independent.
- The development of my social skills
- The most helpful thing is social skills.
- The most helpful in getting ready for life after high school was understanding how life work/be prepared for it.
- The part that helps me a lot is how to keep track of your money and that I am smart when my teachers told me and the skills that I can use.
- The social aspect of it. Communication is key after all.
- The social aspect. Dealing with tons of different people helped with my patience with people at work.
- They helped me learn self advocacy skills. Also, my high school provided a mentor to me while attending community college which helped with

organization and planning; not academics.

- They helped us be very independent.
- They taught me work ethic, finances and how to talk to people.
- Time management
- Time management
- Time management
- Time management, everyday skills
- Using an agenda, asking for help, advocating for myself.
- Voag taught me work ethic.
- volunteer work experience, control behaviors.

### ***Connecting Activities***

- 18-21 transition
- 5th year-helping me find a job
- Ability to get a job through the school.
- ability to visit multiple agencies prior to selecting them
- All of the above esp work experience because that led to present job. Jobs are very difficult for developmentally disabled young adults so he feels lucky to have a great job.
- BIC and [program name illegible]
- Civil air patrol
- Commity service with the town helped prepare me for work.
- Community class
- Daily life skills, social skills, vocational, the overall consistency of the program/educational program.
- Dealing with others
- Dealing with people and situations
- Dealing with people.
- Figuring out how to deal with people of different backgrounds and personalities.
- figuring things out on my own.
- Gradually becoming more and more confident and independent in terms of advocating and standing up for myself.
- Hart bus person helped me learn how to take the bus.
- Helped with transition to adult day program
- Helping fill out forms, staff support --> that was for parents. Parents are the ones that have to deal with this. Especially if your child has poor social and problem solving skills.
- I was helped in getting my credits to graduate but no direction to go for work or job skills after graduation.
- Visiting local colleges, consumer math

### ***Family Involvement and Supports***

- Ability to learn at my parents and receive services to achieve my goals



- I learned more at home and in college than ever in high school.
- My foster/adoptive parents support
- My parents prepared me for life after high school.
- Things my mom taught me on her own

### *Other*

- [name]
- [School name] [program name] was poor. No accredited special education teacher from 12/14-6/15- substitutes. Didn't feel my needs were cared about.
- [STUDENT NAME] was in a resource classroom, he was at an extremely low level class.
- All
- All
- all of it
- all of it
- everything
- Everything in my special ed program and my parents guidance.
- Everything was helpful
- Everything was helpful.
- Everythings helped in different ways.
- Good life and work experiences
- Good question!!
- Ha ha ha
- Hard to tell. A DSO is appropriate for [them].
- High school never really helped me. I had to discover it on my own.
- I actually do not know off of my head
- I can tell you that the square route of Pi is 3.14 but I don't know the first thing about filing taxes
- I guess everything. Isn't the point of high school to get people ready to transition to college and stuff
- I really wasn't in school like that for it to help me.
- I was in [PROGRAM NAME]. Contemporary concerns - what to look out for.
- Its was around my last high school.
- leaving
- Look at question 9.
- Most of my education was just general knowledge which I don't use in my day to day life other than as background for my college classes. My High School didn't teach me anything like taxes, checks, or money management, which would have been useful.
- My daughter I mentally challenge.
- She is doing very good. Evrerything is good.
- Small groups work better

- Very negative experience
- Would have been good if more was told to me about college and how to apply.

*None/Nothing/Unsure*

- Don't know
- Don't know, no part.
- Don't know, woodworking and cooking. Feel they pushed him along.
- Don't really know
- I didn't learn anything that would have prepared me for life after high school.
- I didn't really find anything. My mom been teaching me what I should have learn already.
- I do not feel that highschool helped me prepare for life at all.
- I do not think high school prepared me for college at all.
- I don't feel I can actually answer this question.
- I don't feel ready I need more assistance and guidance
- I don't feel the special ed services offered to me in high school were very helpful.
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know.
- I feel I was left on my own too much.
- I feel I was ready to go out into the real world, but I wasn't prepared for college as much because I had addisional time in my high school classes but in college it must be done within a shorter amount of time.
- I feel like high school didn't benefit me the way it was supposed to.
- I have no idea
- N-A
- N/A
- N/A
- n/a
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- NA
- No answer
- No part

- no part never understood my disability
- No positive hor helpful support. DRAMA got me ready for rejection when you have talent!
- none
- none
- None
- NONE
- None
- none
- None
- none
- None
- None
- none
- none
- None
- None
- none
- none
- None
- None
- none of it.
- None- I am completely deaf so no interpreters in state [sp?] no services no nothing! Thank to Maloy I am a bubble.
- none!
- None.
- None.
- None. They did not give us any tools we would use in later life.
- Not much - I home. I just didn't have the mind to do anything.
- Not one thing at all, they never taught me how to set up a resume, do my taxes, and anything to do with real life. They never once taught me anything I need to know.
- Not sure
- Not sure
- not sure
- Not sure
- not sure
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing

- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing I was pleased with everything they did.
- nothing really
- nothing really
- nothing really
- Nothing specifically
- Nothing, useless
- Nothing. School now a days is about passing more than learning these days.
- NOTHING. [high school name] didn't prepare me at all. THAT PLACE NEEDS HELP!
- Pretty much nothing.
- They didn't - still live with my parents
- They didn't teach me anything.
- To be Serverly honest, I needed more help then the what seemed like very little help they gave us, I need one on one and individual help not mass group help, i can't stay focused like that at all I'm to easily distracted, and I got angry a lot because people always thought I was mad when I just wanted to calm down for a few minutes or listen to music to help calm down quick. Again if you can feel free to contact me in you can
- unsure
- Unsure

## Appendix F

Open-Ended Responses to Question #11: Things High School Could Have Done Differently

***What could your high school have done differently to prepare you for life after school?***

Note: Data is presented as written by the respondent. Responses which contained information that might reveal the identity of the respondent are modified to preserve anonymity.

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Other	73
None/Nothing/Unsure	165

***School-Based Preparatory Experiences***

- My high school could have taught me a foreign language such as chinese or spanish.
- Writing Techniques
- Write APA papers
- Would have been better off going to a school like [school name].
- would be nice if they cared about the kids and if they took into account of independent testing
- Worked more closely to find better accomodations that would have been helpful in classes
- Work with the students, encourage them, educate there and inform them - so we are able to meet our goals.
- Why change for less from high school - I'm now prepared.
- Why arent we required to take a class about finances, taxes, all of the different loans for collge and life our senior year.
- Where I went after high school for the three years the program for 18-21 did not help me in certainarea. But when the 4th year came when the moved it to a better program I lost a lot.
- When graduated that's when new programs were beginning.
- Use classes that are real life like personal finance
- Treating its students more like adults, stop babying their students.
- TRADE would have been nice and get me into a manuel job, help get my drivers liscence still trying to pass permit test.
- Took more time to explain and teach a specific dopic, instead of moving on so quickly. Everyone does not learn as fast or on the same level.
- They should have put me in a training programs. Prepare me for life after school.
- They really have helped all of us do courses that would apply to our field of study.
- They could have taught me to read and write better. (mother write this)

- They could have taught a math course regarding the mathematics of money.
- They could have stopped trying to just push people through the system by spoon feeding them the answers and actually educate.
- They could have made me learn new things.
- They could have implamented my 504 plan sooner rather than pushing it off until something happened. (something did).
- They could have challenged me more for college.
- There could have apply some daly living skill classes
- Their attempts to create socialization among special needs kids were not helpful, primarily in the Unified Sports program. Volunteers acted pandering.
- The school provided volunteer and/or work experiences within our community to help influence a student's career path. Educational field trips would've been nice as well!
- The school inself needed to provide out teacher with classroom equipment which was standard for other classrooms (ex: a smart board)
- The friendly consistent support and encouragement
- The class that most prepared me for high school was the basic classes like math and english all those kills come back during those classes.
- The 1st three on #9 should be included in the standard curriculum As well as money management skills. My highshool was too academically oriented.
- Tell us what we really need to know what we need to do to have the things we want in life.
- Tell me what resources were available to me.
- Tell me no ones going t come running down saying I have to finish X, Y or Z.
- Tell me about daily life as an adult.
- Teach you different ways to solve your financial problems in a creative way.
- teach useful things
- Teach us things we use every day out of school.
- teach us more useful things that will help us"stra" our adult life
- Teach us more money management skills
- Teach us more important things that we need to know instead of math which I don't use that mich math besides a calculator.
- Teach us how to handle our free time better
- Teach to engage students and apply real-world everyday-life skills to learn.
- Teach more basics like changing oil, taxes, etc
- Teach me to read and write better!! Also life skills classes!
- Teach me rather than put me in a corner and be told to "do it myself".
- Teach me more useful skills
- Teach me more technology skills.
- Teach me more life skills
- Teach me more independent life skills.
- Teach me more household and technology skills.
- teach me more

### ***Career Preparation and Work-Based Learning Experiences***

- They could help more in getting me a job.
- They could have had more work experience opportunities or volunteer offerings in the community.
- The work experience opportunities were limited, i.e., grocery store, pharmacy, kitchen restaurant. They did provide a library experience which was a good match for me. Social Skills training was not as good as it could have been.
- More work experience.
- More work experience and job skills
- More variety in work programs.
- more time in community
- More things to help prepare to get a job and make it on your own how to strategize with money
- More shop opportunities, welding.
- more shadow opportunities
- More on job training.
- more help with work experience
- More career awareness, job training with meaningful internships, I had no clue what career would be of interest, I never job shadowed or did any career research. Not enough guidance to appropriate programs post sec. What accommodations would be helpful in college. I should have had a note in high school and did not.
- Learned more work skills
- Learn more about a job in what seems interesting to a person.
- join things like fire house and other groups and learn a trade that you really like
- Job experience sites-very limited in choice. Need to experience more hours at a time just like in the real world. Not enough support systems for young adults. Town lacks social activities for young adults. Should have addressed lack of funding. Could have skills but no money = no jobs. Anxiety goes up. Special therapists extremely expensive. I have ignorant staff suggest that my child be on a drug or weekly therapist. Not hyper and costly. Situational anxiety. Doesn't need a drug or constant therapy. Needs a job!
- I wished for job training so I can be ready to take job interviews.
- I wish they taught us how it really would be in a career. Teach us more skills that we would need. I felt like they skimmed over it a bit.
- I wish I learned a little more about the working world.
- I wish I could have had more vocational training in a trade school. My high school didn't have many programs like this- local trade schools wouldn't take me because of my learning disabilities- many students with NO learning issues went to vocational/trade schools/ we were actually told at one school that with so many "strong" students applying they didn't have room for "special needs kids".
- I think my high school could have brought the students more opportunities for employment because not many people can get a job out of or during high school.



- I should have learned to stay on a job for a long time
- Helped us focus and help us with career goals and after high school money (finances).
- Helped me look for a job, \$/or make 2 year plan after high school.
- Helped find work.
- Helped fill out application for work.
- Help us to learn more about the job.
- Help to gain employment and connect with agencies that can assist with getting a job
- Help me with career options for college
- help me find career path that works for me
- Help find a job, help with the interview process.
- Help find a job or pogram
- Having work experience classes on how to get ready for jobs and interviews
- gotten me a skills like fix cars and have certificate so I could get a job or CNA.
- Find job, sign up for MARC, find educational program.
- employment during school-year
- Emphasize trade school.
- DO volunteer work. Give special ed to past the age of 21 if needed
- Did better vocational training for me. More information on other agencies than useless BRS
- Could have done a work study.
- Could have been more intense with job and life skills and started at younger age.
- Better opportunity in trade classes for career wise.

### ***Youth Development and Leadership***

- worked harder in high school.
- Work harder
- Wish could left from school and would transition full time at the workside they had offer thru the school years.
- Try harder to get to know your students so you'll know how to help them.
- To teach the students money management and have a job program.
- to actually think about what the real world is like and then teach you about the real world. If they prepared me, life would be so much easier.
- Time management skills.
- Time management skills and how to approach writing a paper. Both are still overwhelming to me.
- They couldve gave me life management skills.
- They could talk and havemore classes on the real world ie taxes, bills, etc.
- They could hve provided me with guidance in the real world and given me any tools to help me succeed in the world. Instead, they passedme just to get me out of high school as fast as they could, never explaining the reasons. They could

have encouraged me how to do every day skills and let me do more extra credit work in a way that would have made actual sense to me. They did NONE of those things. I only graduated with a ton of hep from my case working. She was the only one that ever cared at all!

- they could have taught me more about managing money, doing your taxes and things like that
- They could have taught us to be more outgoing.
- They could have taught us things that actually matter like taxes and jobs.
- They could have taught me practical and every day skills.
- The Life Management class I had in my Junior Year I would have liked to learn at least somewhat more about money management.
- Social skills, finance, money management, time management, organization. Career choices. Public speaking.
- Social skills training for kids without disabilities so they understand how important it is to include people of all abilities and really be their friends. Also how to manage finances bank, checking, budgeting \$\$!
- Social skills
- Self-advocacy, work experience
- Same independent living skills.
- Prompted me to do more homework independently.
- More self-management
- More self advocacy skills, more social skills
- More real world skills.
- more real life experiences
- more prepared for life
- More money management skills.
- More money management skills
- More like skills around money
- More life skills. Help me to enter the work force
- More life skills instead of test taking skills.
- More life skills - resume writing, banking, driving school
- more life skills
- more life skills
- more involved hands on
- more independent living and self advocacy to prepare me for the real world.
- More independent daily skills
- More help with social aspect and a mentor to check in with me.
- more help with [disability].
- More help organizing myself.
- More emphasis on independent living skills.
- More assistance with writing Resumes, one on one training with interviewing, learning how to budget money. Taking care of finances.
- More assistance in areas I am weak in such as math.
- More aggressive dills in basic study and organizational [sp?]

- Money management/credit cards
- Money management, classes that are more tailored to students, more clear on independent living.
- money management skills.
- Money management - independent living skills.
- money management
- Money management
- Money management
- Maybe offer everyday life skills for after school so we're prepared for it along with our education.
- Managing money; (writing checks, paying bills), driving car, practicing actual self advocacy; ex. "what to do in case of... cable doesn't work, receive confusing letter in mail. Post HS study skills. Cooking, following recipe directions,
- Manage money. Talk more about opportunities for college
- Manage money - if there was a course
- life skills
- life lessons
- Let students be more independent and take more responsibility
- Learned more about my disability and helping me with bullying
- Improve ability to organize and advocate for self.
- I wish I had learned more about independent living skills, time management, money management, study skills, taxes, car loans, house loans, life skills!
- I think they could help me more with self-advocacy.
- I needed more help with time management and organization and dealing with stress.
- I could have written more and been more neat with work.
- I could have improved my time management.
- How to manage money. How to balance a checkbook. The difference between paying rent or getting a mortgage.
- How to manage money in every day life. How to get more assistance for college.
- How to do everyday adult life stuff. Checkbook, bills, house owning, etc.
- how to communicate with higher people than me whether it's with a boss or anyone.
- Helped me more with my assertiveness so as not to get taken advantage of and to be able to go after what I want without so much hesitation and even help from my moms.
- Help with self-advocacy, independent living skills, money management, more career options
- Help with money management, and independent living skills
- Help with life, job skills, help with transitional services.
- Help me more self advocacy without feeling bad for needing it.
- Having classes about different life concepts and how to get through it

- Handling/dealing with or managing self esteem issues.
- Focus more on living skills
- Focus on how to manage your personal finances/life outside work and school.
- Focus more on hands on and life skills rather than forcefully make me and others take standardized tests.
- Financial skills and dealing with others.
- Financial Planning courses, money management class, daily culinary skills
- Better social skills, more work experience
- Better life skills
- Basic life skills - checkbook, money management, etc
- banking and living on your own
- A slightly more hands-off approach to enable me to have more self-confidence.
- A lot starting with paying bills and checks.

### ***Connecting Activities***

- Worked with BRS more closely. BRS promised more help and haven't proved that yet 12 mos later.
- They should have had classes that teach you about apartments, money, credit cards, college and getting your license.
- They should have an intro to college course to prepare people on what they can expect.
- They could have prepared by if you're ready for college it could have been other programs.
- They could have told me more about the colleges and the life after high school.
- They could have helped me get my driver license.
- They could have given me the agencies to go to for job skills or help in getting a job.
- Taught us stuff we would need in real life. How to prepare for bills, jobs, life!
- Showed students how to pay taxes and taught them how to manage their money
- Show how to work pay bills and cash checks and apply.
- Set me up with college courses
- Scheduled time to take me to different agencies that I could attend in the future
- More info about colleges - set my credits/classes up better
- More community opportunities and inclusion in extra curricular activities
- Make sure I know everything I needed to know to get into college.
- Involved in BRS or DDS sooner
- How to write a grocery list
- How to use a check book. How to manage my money. How to take out loans. How to know if you are in an abusive relationship.
- Have a list of appropriate schools ready to continue my education. There was absolutely no help, no guidance, no list of any schools I could research.
- Have a driving course I don't have to pay for I'm 19 and still can't drive and it makes life hard.
- Gave me a scholarship to play sports.

- Explained the process of applying for services at college level and how to plan does not transfer to Community School and additional diagnosis are needed. Special Ed plan not accepted at [SCHOOL NAME] had to get new diagnosis to get services under 504.
- Explain the cost of living at a dorm and compare it to cost of living at home. Getting a drivers license should be spoken about.
- Driver's ed for learning disabled.
- Community Service
- College skills - working with syllabus
- College preparation
- Budgeting money.

### ***Family Involvement and Supports***

#### ***Other***

- West to college right away
- We left with little notice so they really didn't have time. But there was only a couple of months left, so I don't know if that's when they inform you of other services.
- technical skills
- Study more
- still in school
- Start at age 16 for work experience
- Spent more one on one time with me about college. It seems overwhelming
- set me up with an program
- recognized disability
- Pushing me more. Asking more of me.
- push harder
- Only field trips were to super market. I like to do other things.
- Not just passed me because I was smart I didn't do the work and didn't know how when I got to college.
- Not have art/music mandatory, instead personal finance mandatory for graduation.
- Not give me in school suspension for minor things such as phone use.
- Not fire their social workers and special ed teachers, because I would have liked to visit them, take to them.
- Not been full of awful people
- not be so controlling and prepare me for being in charge of myself (because of excess control and not being treated my age HUGE shock)
- Mortgaging, teaching human rights, laws for the state.
- More help conducting and setting (sp?) matter (sp?) college
- more freedom
- More diversity

- Maybe a list of discussion points that everyone could write down their point of view, that at PPTs they could be talked about - that way things could be thought out more re: transition.
- Make it easier to get into college.
- looked for help earlier
- Less judgemental
- Kept me in high school and gave me a chance rather than seek my diploma through adult ed.
- incorporate all of question 9
- In my case, more organizational and study skills strategies would have been helpful. Because I went on to college this would have been helpful.
- If I had taken a personal finance task
- If he never were handed the diploma. He was given his diploma accidentally and was then given the choice to go on to a voc program or not. He chose to keep the diploma.
- I would recommend students on transition to participate in many clubs and volunteer work to keep them busy. I would also tell students to not be afraid to ask any questions about transitioning. I completed a STARS program before college which was taking a few classes in the summer, and it really helped me to fit in to college more smoothly. A counselor at any college is also very important for anyone with a disability.
- I was very unprepared for the written course load.
- I was in jail most of my time.
- I was already prepared for my life.
- I think just give us a sense of what life was like outside of our high school with life experience such as volunteering more. There were certainly some good experiences but I think this would be good for others with an LD to understand not everyone has those LD's!
- I know the pros for finding a good job but others may not. They need to open the career center open to anyone.
- I don't think they prepared me for college because I had to leave after 1st semester.
- I don't think he should have graduated. Needed 1:1.
- I am not sure what kind of person can be ready for life?
- I already had an idea of how my life would be after so it's ok.
- Honestly, I could maybe write a small book on this please contact me, it's a lot easier I'll gladly set up times for like meetings and try to come to you guys and talk to you in person I prefer it that way of there is anyway we can do that I'd prefer that
- High school should focus more on people's goals, what they actually want to do for a career.
- Helped me personally. It was hard to focus and I asked for a helper teacher, and they didn't give me one.
- Helped me get better grades to go to college.
- helped get the extra aide

- help me more
- He went to a [different] school and was much happier. He fit in and they were very good with him. Mainstreaming him at a high school would have been disastrous.
- Hands on training
- had more opportunities for learning alongside regular education peers.
- Had more hands-on technical programs that went farther than low-level would be nice to go 3 yrs in auto shop or even include welding.
- Give us more life information show us more about the real world.
- give out 30 day bus passes to be able to go out and look for jobs and if wanted to check out different collages in the surround areas
- give me more time with the techers the understood the way I learn.
- Found ways to not make me feel different among my peers
- finding a best match for his teacher and paraprofessional - ones who asked for best effort and behavior. They spend a lot of time with [STUDENT NAME] so a better match would have been great some years. A better handle on behavior approach and consultant behavior issues that barred him from optimal cooperation and progress
- Explaine easyer and better.
- Explain to me more [?] life skills for the future and the facts about college.
- everything. And I mean everything like you guys need to extremely reform the education system
- Everything.
- EVERYTHING! I really wished they taught me how to do things you need to learn to do in order to get through life.
- Everything, seriously and honestly.
- Everything not checked in #9
- everything
- Everything
- Due to [STUDENT ANME]'s disabilities and due to the fact that he is low functioning school turned out to be not very helpful.
- doing fine.
- Differentiate between those with actual problems and kids who just didn't care about education.
- Did do a lot, very satisfied.
- Better suport once I got into college.
- As his parent, I truly feel they were excellent in preparing my son for his change!
- Actully care
- a lot...

*None/Nothing/Unsure*

- Very satisfied.

- unsure
- unsure
- unsure
- To be honest, everything I went through was actually all right for me.
- They prepared me very well.
- They did the absolute best!
- They did everything right couldn't ask for better staffing.
- They did everything he would let them do. (This was filled out by his Mom so I cant answer for his feelings which he wouldn't discuss.)
- They did a pretyy good job. He went to a great school.
- They did a fine job preparing me
- There's nothing different that could have been done.
- The school was remarkable. Her case mgr really got to know her and thought out of the box working with her. They get students involved working in agriculture and volunteering. I just felt she had such a lack of confidence from always struggling academically, that she has no confidence to further education herself.
- The high school did a great job!
- SCHOOL was a great school. They gave me all the tools I needed. I just didn't use all of them to the fullest of my abilities, and that's on me -- not on the school.
- Really don't know.
- Over all I think my school did a very good job preparing me.
- Nothing. They tried to give me all the tools but I was not mature enough to accept them.
- Nothing. They had teached me everything I needed to know.
- Nothing. They did everything they could do for me. I was too stubborn to listen.
- Nothing. I think they prepared me well for everything they could have.
- Nothing. Everything was made available if I needed it.
- nothing!
- Nothing; they prepared me adequately for post-secondary
- Nothing, I felt prepared after high school.
- Nothing, everything in high school has prepared me for my life.
- nothing-good experience
- Nothing they did there job most of the time it was me acting out.
- nothing they did everything they could
- nothing really, I feel okay the way I am in my life.
- Nothing really because my teachers guide me in the right place and when I need to ask don't be scared to ask.
- Nothing really - they taught me all they knew
- Nothing much else everything or lesson was cherished and used after school.
- Nothing more
- Nothing I'm aware of



- Nothing I chose not to take financing or independent living.
- Nothing I can think of. Loved my high school!
- Nothing I can think of.
- Nothing High school was a big part of my life it helped me understand how to live and learn.
- Nothing different.
- Nothing different.
- Nothing better
- Nothing because my high school provided the services necessary for my transition.
- Nothing because I don't care
- Nothing because I advocated for myself well.
- Nothing ... [SCHOOL NAME] was absolutely awesome and did more than anyone could have anticipated or expected.
- nothing - they tried and I rebelled
- nothing - it was good
- Nothing - [HIGH SCHOOL NAME] Special Ed support was excellent
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing

- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Nothing
- Not trying to force me into the resource room/special ed because I was quiet. This horrible system need to be changed. All it does is alienate not help.
- Not to discourage me about being an [career].
- Not sure. But my cousler was not helpful at all.
- not sure
- Not sure
- not sure
- not sure
- Not sure
- not sure
- Not really, had to prepare for a completely different program with completely different people for a nonverbal individual. Would have been nice if the day program staff went to see her in her school setting.
- Not really they were great. Post grad has been difficult.
- Not pass along from grade to grade without basics
- Not oo much, they taught me most things I needed to know.
- Not much they did a great job.
- not make every last thing seem like the end of the world.
- Not a thing.
- none
- none
- No complaints
- no
- no
- no
- No
- No
- No
- no
- N/A.
- N/A
- N/A

- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- My high school did a pretty good job I wouldn't change anything.
- It worked perfectly fine for me, nothing needs to be changed.
- IDKH
- IDK
- I believe they did very well with her and the only thing is the other kids making fun of the disability. That was a problem for her.
- I was well prepared for college. My HS did a good job. I also had a private tutor 2x a week my entire school years.
- I was well prepared
- I thought that the high school did well in preparing me. It helped a lot and I do not think I would be where I am now without the help I received in high school.
- I think they did their best to help me succeed.
- I think they did a pretty good job
- I think there's nothing that my high school can do differently to prepare me... My high school did everything right.
- I think that everything was just right.
- I think my high school was alright. There was no need for to have done anything different.
- I think my high school did a pretty good job of getting us set for life.
- I think my high school did a good job at preparing me for college.
- I think High School did a great job. Im working and doing good and hope to even better.
- I honestly have no clue
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't think there's anything that my high school could have done differently.
- I don't know
- I am satisfied with my high school education. I feel prepared for college and received a 3.91 GPA my first year.
- I am not sure if there was something different I could have done.

- Don't knowm didn't want to go.
- Don't Know
- Don't push college as much and focus more on trade.
- Do not know right now. Actually how to write professional email.
- Did a great job!
- Cant think of anything at this time.
- cant think of anything
- [school name] offered best intensive program possible. Could have taught skills for an unstructured environment and how keeping busy in daytime; more boundaries.
- [SCHOOL NAME] did a tremendous job supporting me and believing in me. The rest is up to me.
- [SCHOOL NAME] was the best school ever for me and they helped me very much.
- ... [off topic answer] High school was fine.
- ?
- ?
- Nothing - great job.

## Appendix G

### Open-Ended Responses to Question #12: Survey Clarity

***Was there anything confusing or unclear about this survey?***

Note: Data is presented as written by the respondent. Responses which contained information that might reveal the identity of the respondent are modified to preserve anonymity.

526 respondents answered this question.

***General Feedback About Survey***

- no (x 448)
- You should include the question "what do you think about your h.s." or Rate your H.S. on 1-10 point scale. I would have rated it as a 10 for spectacular.
- yes. Nothing will change
- Yes. #10
- Yes, why are you not holding people accountable for doing their jobs? That's what's confusing.
- Yes, the work experience and how high school helped.
- Yes- that it came a year after I graduated.
- yes some questions
- yes question #10
- Yes in regards to Q. 10 it is unsure if you want year, class or designated time
- Yes how does this survey benefit incarcerated people. Thank you.
- yes how does this help me?
- Yes everything is confusing on this survey
- yes because I didn't understand most of the questions you asked.
- Yes
- Yea I don't support just pushing kids along and did not want to fill this out the system let me down.
- Why there is only one question for complaints.
- Why I was the only one out of my friends that got this survey...?
- Why did you send me 3 forms? I did not care for this survey! Waste of my time! High schools nowadays suck! The teachers are disorganized. They don't help the students. [SCHOOL NAME] sucks!
- What is the purpose of this survey?
- unsure
- Too repetitive about job position.
- This student is disabled. Not sure if it is aimed at him.
- There were a few confusing things but I got through it
- There was nothing unclear or confusing in this survey.
- There was nothing because my teachers help me and make me the person I am today including my parents.
- There was not
- There are difficulty in spelling.
- The work questions were a little unclear.
- the question asking what was the most helpful part of your high school education, maybe giving more ideas or detail to that question.

- The letter isn't dated, and gives me 2 weeks to fill this out, but because my family was away for 2 weeks I have no idea what the deadline might be. Also, it's unclear which program I'm supposed to be evaluating - my sending school or the last program I attended. I received diplomas from both (not sure why). I am evaluating the last program I attended - EO Smith's transition program, NOT my sending district (South Windsor). South Windsor was good in that they paid for my last year at EO Smith, but bad in that they tried to force me into a program that was inappropriate - and it took me 2 years to find the appropriate program, so I wasted 2 years after leaving SW's k-12 program.
- straightforward
- Some what
- Some questions were tricky to figure out and the answers weren't very clear either.
- Some question that kindly hard for me.
- some of the questions are vague and I'm not really sure why this information is important or how it will be used.
- Some of the agencies
- Question 9 should read "What skills did your high school work on with you"
- Question 11 - needs to be more specific in what its asking
- Question #8 - unclear as to whether or not the question referred to my overall happiness or my happiness vis a vis my high school experience.
- question #6...not sure if I qualify for services
- question #6
- Other comments - SAT and ACT testing is unfair to those who have disabilities.
- On number 9, I wasn't sure if it meant the high school experience in general or just the special education department. I answered as if it meant the whole experience.
- Number 6 Question didn't seem clear.
- Nothing. Thank you.
- Nothing was unclear or confusing.
- Nothing unclear just not sure what you can use to really do anything with it.
- Nothing unclear about this survey. [off-topic answer]
- Nothing at all.
- nothing
- Nothing
- nothing
- Not sure why I got it. Only have a mild [DISABILITY NAME] not anything serious!!
- Not sure if applied to medical Ieps. Also unclear if Q9 means what student learned in HS just being a student or if you are asking if they taught a class in it.
- not sure
- Not really.
- Not really, a verbal explanation should also be use to clear up any confusion.
- not really
- not really
- Not one thing.
- not it was good

- Not but why just special education students. They no different than everyone. My special ed teachers were the best teachers I have had in my life. Big help.
- Not at all.
- Not at all.
- not at all
- Not at all
- not at all
- Nope.
- Nope, nothing was confusing
- Nope thank you!
- nope not anything wrong about this survey everything is ok.
- Nope
- nope
- nope
- nope
- Nope
- nope
- Nope
- Nope
- Nope
- NONE!
- None at all.
- None
- None
- None
- None
- None
- none
- none
- none
- none
- None
- None
- none
- None
- none
- No. My problem was dyslexia and my high school helped me greatly. Survey was easy.
- No; the survey was clear.
- No, there was nothing confusing or unclear about this survey.
- No, thank you
- No, stop mailing me this survey.
- No, nothing
- No, not at all.
- No, not at all.



- No, not at all I understand everything
- No, just nothing.
- no, it ok.
- No, I think it was very clear.
- No, found it easy to fill out.
- No, everything was self-explanatory.
- No, everything was clear.
- No, everything was clear and understanding.
- No, but when I signed out of school I signed a blank piece of paper. I wonder if [DISTRICT] reports its true dropout rates.
- no-my grandmother helped me.
- No this was fine.
- no there wasn't
- No there was not
- No there was no confusing part.
- No thank you for your time.
- No some of the questions were hard to answer
- No not really.
- no not at all
- No it was very clear and straightforward.
- No it was very clear and simple with great questions. Also I would like to include I've been out of high school so long I cant remember much of the teachings.
- No it was pretty clear and I hope I got my point across that I got almost NO HELP as a person [with DISABILITY NAME], other than 1 single person. No other teachers cared and I had no guidance otherwise unless it was delivered in an angry way!! I was also bullied and the principals and others did almost NOTHING to help me!! I very much hope that the other children that follw me are entitled to actual help that will get them prepared for life instead of pushed through so they are no longer their problem!! I suggest the staff at my high school be educated to help students with [DISABILITY NAME]!
- No it was not.
- no it was clear.
- No it all made sense.
- No except #5. I am an hourly wage employee.
- no but I thing this is a very good thing you are doing and thank you soo much.
- no - still does not apply to me.
- Needed help of guardian/parent to complete
- Need specific links to departments that can assist me in getting job skills and work experience.
- Na
- N/A to were I am
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A

- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- my son could not answer these questions on his own.
- My mom helped me
- My mom filled it out for me. My reading and writing skills are minimum. I learn verbally. I could have done more in school if verbal was my opportunity. Never was it made possible.
- Just that you should ask level of disability! My daughter cannot read, write, feed herself, dress herself, speak or even use the toilet.
- It was very clear.
- I'm still incarcerated and finishing my credits so it was difficult to answer these questions.
- I would suggest that there should be a college class that prepares you for college life and living arrangements and teach kids how to live on their own.
- I was confusing some of the question but after I understood it.
- I think it was geared toward people with more severe learning differences.
- I needed help in college and no body wanted to help me.
- I graduated high school in 2015, not 2016, and I'm guessing the only reason I received this was because I graduated a year early.
- I don't think so, everything seemed pretty straight forward.
- I don't like writing lol.
- I could not have full time employment because I'm at school so I just answered for my summer job.
- How was I selected? Suggest this survey be further linked to sp.ed. Programs so they see what post grad students say.
- Hard to answer questions because I am still incarcerated
- Filled out by parent
- fairly understandable
- Everything was clear
- Everything from top to bottom is useless.
- Everything clear.
- Eh.
- easy
- Doesn't apply to me cant even read it. Done by 3rd party.
- Are there programs to help me now?
- All clear.
- A lot actually I don't know pretty much all of those adult programs mentioned never heard of them in my life, I've said it a lot but please just contact me if you'd like to set up a in person meeting or anything in person its easier for me to explain in person then in just text My cell is 860 946 3505 if I don't answer please leave a voice mail! So I know to call back And my email is Bobsilentremake@yahoo.com

- a little confusing
- a little
- [STUDENT NAME] has [DISABILITY NAME] and was not able to understand or complete this survey.