



# ASPIRE:

## Active Student Participation Inspires Real Engagement

### A STUDENT-LED IEP INITIATIVE

#### What is it?

The student-led IEP is a vehicle to assist students with disabilities to develop self-determination skill and behaviors. Self-determination is a concept reflecting the belief that all individuals have the right to direct their own lives and can act as the primary causal agent in their life.

ASPIRE is designed to develop self-determination skills in the following areas:

- Problem solving
- Self-evaluation
- Choice-making
- Decision-making
- Goal setting

By actively participating in their IEP, students learn about their strengths, challenge areas, interests, present levels, services and accommodations. Students have the opportunity to set goals, plan for their future, and develop self-advocacy skills. The teacher guides the student in activities help the student understand the purpose and components of the IEP document thereby gaining the knowledge needed to participate in the IEP meeting. This helps meet the intent of IDEA and promotes effective transition planning.

#### Resources

GaDOE Transition Website for Self-Determination

<https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Self-Determination.aspx>

I'm Determined: Student-Led IEP

[www.imdetermined.org](http://www.imdetermined.org)

NICHY: Student Guide to the IEP:

<http://nichcy.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/st1.pdf>



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## Self-Determination / Student-Led IEPs

### What is Self-Determination?

- ✓ Knowing and believing in yourself
- ✓ Knowing what you want in the future AND making plans to achieve those goals
- ✓ Knowing and asking for the supports you need to achieve your goals
- ✓ Knowing how to make choices and decisions to improve your quality of life
- ✓ Being the causal agent in your life

### Advantages of Student-Led IEPs

- ✓ Shifts the focus from adult-centered to student-centered
- ✓ Gives the student more control over their education
- ✓ Increases student and family engagement and representation in the IEP process.
- ✓ Student becomes comfortable being an active member of a team.

## The IGP and IEP: Working Together for Transition Planning

The **IGP** (Individual Graduation Plan) is:

- ✓ Required for ALL students
- ✓ Developed with the student and parents/guardians
- ✓ Focused on career awareness, career interest inventories and information to assist students in evaluating their academic skills and career interests
- ✓ Includes experience-based and career-oriented learning experiences
- ✓ Includes postsecondary opportunities through dual enrollment



### Working Together

**IGP** –used to create the pathway to successful postschool outcome for all students

**IEP** – uses the IGP to inform the development of the IEP and transition components.

**ASPIRE** – Helps the student to develop the skills needed to participate in both meetings in a meaningful way.