

Choosing Education Goals

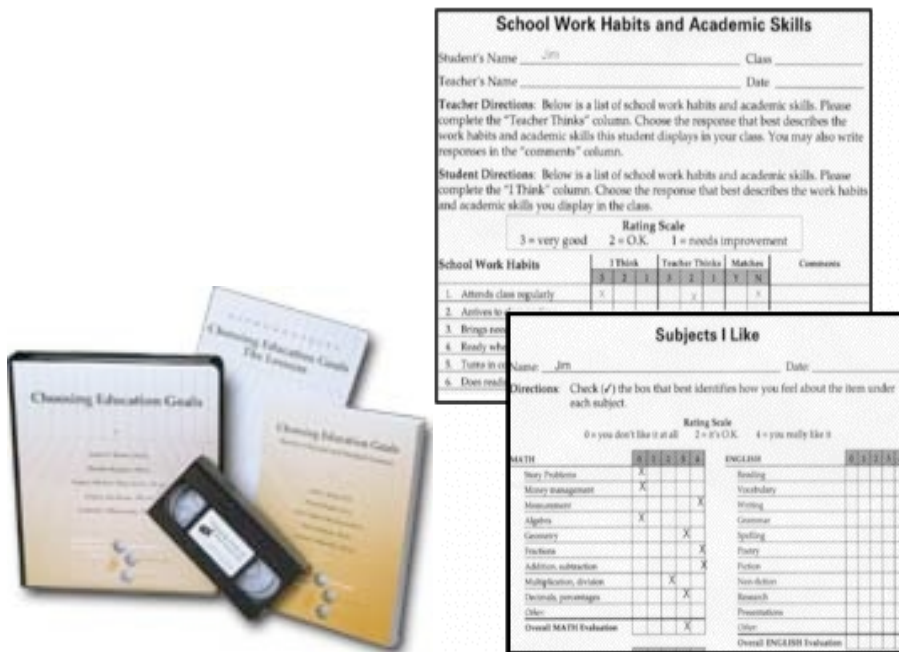
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Martin, J. E., Marshall, L. H., L., Hughes, W. M., Jerman, P. A., & Maxson, L. L. (2000). *Choosing education goals*. Retrieved from zarrowcenter.ou.edu

ChoiceMaker Curriculum Objectives

The *Self-Directed IEP* instructional program enables students to attain the following nine ChoiceMaker Self-Determination Transition Curriculum objectives:

- Objective A3. Identify goal setting roles and timelines
- Objective B1. Express school interests
- Objective B3. Express post-high school education interests
- Objective C1. Express school skills and limits
- Objective C3. Express post-high school education skills and limits
- Objective D1. Indicate options and choose school goals
- Objective D3. Indicate options and choose post-high school education goals



Description of Choosing Goals Lessons

The *ChoiceMaker Curriculum's* choosing goals section lists outcomes that students need to express their interests, skills, limits, and goals across three transition areas: employment, education, and personal. The choosing goals lesson packages include *Choosing Employment Goals* (Marshall, Martin, Maxson, & Jerman, 1997), *Choosing Education Goals* (Martin, Marshall, Hughes, Jerman, & Maxson, 2000), and *Choosing Personal Goals* (Marshall, Martin, Jerman, Hughes, & Maxson, 1999). The general choosing goals process, which *Choosing Employment Goals* teaches students to complete, is common across the three choosing goals lesson packages.

Choosing general goals lessons. This methodology enables students to quickly determine their goals across transition areas. If they do not know their goals, then the lack of that knowledge converts into a goal. For instance, if a person does not know their postschool employment goal, then the choosing goals process produces a goal for the student to learn their postschool employment interests. A student video, entitled *Choosing Goals to Plan Your Life* (Martin, Huber Marshall, Maxson, & Hallahan, 1997) introduces the choosing goals process by showing actual high school students who have disabilities learning and using the choosing goals process. This video serves as a model to demonstrate how students use the choosing general goals process. The accompanying lessons incorporate the video into instructional plans.

After watching the video and completing the choosing goals lessons, students complete a choosing general goals worksheet. For instance, if a student wants to work as a plumber but does not know the job requirements, his goal becomes to find out the job requirements to become a plumber. After the student knows how to complete the form, he simply reads each question and writes an answer. If he does not know the answer, then the stem of the question becomes his goal. Once completed, students may use the results for discussions in their transition class, with their parents, and at their IEP meetings.

Description of Choosing Education Goals

Choosing Education Goals teaches students three sets of skills: (a) how to identify interests, skills, and limits, (b) how to identify educational opportunities, and (c) how to develop educational goals based on identified interests, skills, limits, and available opportunities. The *Choosing Education Goals* lesson package teaches students to choose high school and postsecondary education goals that match their interests, skills, and limits to available opportunities. It also teaches students to develop their own plan of study that they can present at their IEP meeting. This enables students to fulfill the IDEA requirement that a plan of study be completed at each annual IEP meeting. The last lesson provides students the opportunity to take what they learned and develop educational goals using the choosing goals process discussed earlier.

While using the *Choosing Education Goals* lessons, students complete numerous activities designed to enable them to:

- Determine their vocational, income, personal, and educational goals for different stages of their lives.
- Identify school subjects they like.
- Complete a personalized plan of study to be used at their IEP meeting.
- Develop an individualized education performance summary that examines test scores, grades, class ranking, and other indicators.
- Learn postsecondary education terminology and available postsecondary programs that match their interests, skills, and limits.
- Complete study habits, work habits, and academic skills self-assessment.
- Maintain a study habits log.
- Develop an individualized postsecondary education options information table.
- Choose secondary and postsecondary education goals that match interests and skills.

These activities take place in the classroom and teach students to reflect upon their experiences, draw conclusions about themselves, and learn about education opportunities. Students collect and assimilate this information over time to make informed decisions about their secondary and postsecondary education plans.

Documenting Need

IDEA 2004 requires as a transition education component a Course of Study that details the classes and school experience that students need to attain their postschool goals. To encourage student ownership of the IEP process and to facilitate student self-determination, educators may wish to teach students to develop their own Course of Study to present at the IEP meetings. Doing so will enable students to understand graduation requirements, the match between their completed courses and the requirements, and allow students the opportunity to plan to complete future courses to facilitate attaining students' postschool goals.

Research Documenting Effectiveness

Peterson, Van Dyke, and Martin (2008) completed a study that examined the impact of the Choosing Education Goals instructional program with eight high school freshman and sophomores who had learning disabilities and received special education through a study skills resource class. A multiple-probe design controlled the threats to the study's internal validity. During baseline the eight students could not complete a course of study. After receiving instruction in the Choosing Education Goals lessons (see table below) over three to four class sessions, six of the eight students independently developed a complete course of study for their remaining time in school, which included all the courses needed to graduate plus electives. Five of these six students developed a complete course of study that corresponded with their postschool goals. One of the six students developed a complete plan but did not identify a postschool goal.

Choosing Education Goals Lessons

Lesson	Overview
1. Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce Goal Setting• Create a Timeline for Future Goals• Introduce <i>Choosing Educational Goals</i>• Introduce and Identify Subjects I Like
2. Educational Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify High School Graduation Requirements• Complete Graduation Checklist• Introduce Educational Performance Indicators• Complete Educational Performance Summary
3. Study Habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brainstorm Effective Study Habits• Complete Study Habits Tool• Compare Study Habits and Grades• Introduce Work Habits and Academic Skills Tools

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| 4. Introduction to Post-Secondary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Results of Work Habits Tools• Present Study Habits Log• Introduce Post-Secondary Terminology• Discuss Post-Secondary Education Options |
| 5. Post-Secondary Education Options | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss Educational Performance Summary• Review and Gather Information on Post-Secondary Options |
| 6. Choosing General Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce Choosing Goals Process• Show Video and Use Examples to Teach<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Interests- Requirements- Skills- Limits |
| 7. Choosing Education Goals | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete Study Habits Log and Follow-up Evaluation• Use Interest, Skills, and Limits to Set Educational Goals |
| 8. Graduation Course Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Graduation Course Planner• Students Design Course of Study |
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