



Bureau of Special Education

17th Annual Back-to-School Session

Connecticut State Department of Education | October 2, 2020

CT Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB)

What is the CT Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB)?

As an initiative within the CT Secondary Transition Community of Practice (CoP), a Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was created to provide a place for students and youth with disabilities ages 14 to 26 to have their voices heard by the people who plan for students and provide them support.

What is the purpose of the YAB?

The YAB serves as a resource to any school district, agency, organization, or provider who serve young people with disabilities. YAB works to improve services and ensure that services and supports provided are truly meeting the needs of youth with disabilities as they transition from district services to adult life. Participation in YAB activities builds the personal advocacy and leadership skills of participants, provides a forum for students to network with each other and professionals in the field, and is a great activity for resumes and portfolios.

Who are the members of the YAB?

YAB members include Connecticut students and youth with disabilities ages 14 to 26 years old who have an interest in learning leadership skills and taking on leadership roles in the state. Currently we have 25 active participants and over 270 students and youth on our e-mail list.

When and where does the YAB meet?

The YAB formally meets three times a year in conjunction with the CT Transition CoP meetings (which will be virtual until further notice) to plan activities for the. Additionally, several meetings are held throughout the year via phone or web-based conference calls to discuss current trends in secondary transition. Attendance at these formal meetings are not mandatory as members can participate in a variety of ways including review of documents and offering opinions via e-mail or social media.

How is the YAB different from the Special Education Youth Advisory Council (SEYAC)?

- The YAB work focuses on secondary transition and beyond, the SEYAC work focuses on special education experiences for students in middle and high school.
- YAB students and youth can sign up individually, SEYAC is school/district based.
- SEYAC holds two trainings virtually for each school/in district, and one conference off-site (if possible). School/district (students) commit to all three sessions.

How can I get involved?

Anyone can refer a student or youth to the YAB. Please contact Beth Reel, CT Parent Advocacy Center, at breel@cpacinc.org or 860-739-3089 for more information.

You can also visit the YAB Facebook page for more information.

