Paid Work Experience

What transition experience is the most powerful single predictor of positive adult outcomes and satisfaction?

Paid work in high school leads to better outcomes (percentage)...

...and greater adult satisfaction (scale of 1-10).

What it means...

...for parents. Use any connections you have to help your youth get paid work.

...for youth. Ask friends, family, and teachers about jobs they know about. Ask about work at stores and restaurants you go to.

...for professionals. Find out about paid work experience through the school. Build relationships with employers.

Data are from a national survey of young adults with disabilities and parents about high school transition activities, adult employment and education outcomes, and adult satisfaction. We asked about 32 transition activities across three domains: transition content, transition experiences, and transition supports. For more information, go to the October 2022 issue of Exceptional Parent magazine.