

# **Best Practices for Student-Led IEP Meetings**

**Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Education Ad Hoc Committee**

**May 27, 2026**



# Predictors of Postschool Success

- **Goal Setting** refers to developing individually- and self-determined short- and long-term goals for future adult living based on personal preferences and choice to the greatest extent possible; and includes specific measures to assess attainment and achievement over time.
- **Self-Determination/Self-Advocacy** is the ability to make choices, solve problems, set goals, evaluate options, take initiative, reach one's goals, and accept consequences of one's actions.
- **Self-Realization** means understanding one's strengths and support needs in order to engage in informed choice-making and self-reflection.
- **Youth Autonomy/Decision-Making** refers to the youth acting within their capacity on their own interests, preferences, abilities, and without undue influence.

# Best Practices for Student-Led IEP Meetings

Nevada Student Leadership Transition Summit (NSLTS) Example

Led by young adult facilitators/mentors

- **Preparing students through self-awareness activities**
  - Teach the IEP document (understand legal and educational rights)
  - Brainstorm, leadership style, goal plan activities (identify strengths/needs)
- **Scripting and practicing their presentations**
  - Virtual dream board (role-play, self-record/reflect)
- **Offering choices on how they participate**
  - Format (prerecord, live) and content (introductions, about me, self-direct)
- **Fostering student voice**
  - Adults speak to the student rather than about them

# Key Findings of Educational Research on Student-Led IEP Meetings

1. **Increased self-determination and independence** including active participants vs. passive recipients
2. **Deeper understanding of disability rights** and knowledge empowers the request and use of appropriate supports
3. **Shift in meeting dynamics** overall tone is more positive and focused on growth
4. **Better long-term postschool outcomes** and tangible benefits in education, employment, and independent living

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