

January 24, 2025

TEPS Abstract

Laura Staniszewski

DADD Conference on Autism, Intellectual, and Other Developmental Disabilities Conference

January 22-25, 2025

I would like to thank the TEPS Committee and Dr. Frahm for allowing me to attend the DADD Conference. These days were filled with an abundance of information and sessions that will benefit my students and my teaching methodology. The sessions that will have an immediate impact are described as follows:

Bridging Gaps: Transition Supports Across the Lifespan for Autism and Developmental Disabilities:

This session explored aspects of transition across crucial life stages from birth to adulthood for individuals with autism and developmental disabilities. It emphasized the benefits of early partnership and interdisciplinary approaches to foster inclusion, equitable opportunities, and strategies to support transition experiences for education and community involvement.

Executive Function Coaching to Enhance Self-Determination, Academic Success, and Employment

Readiness Skills: This presentation introduced evidence-based executive function coaching to bolster academic success, independence, and promote inclusion. Improvement in executive functioning skills results in improved academic performance, self-awareness, organizational skills, stress management, and self-advocacy skills. These are important skills that all students need for success after high school whether attending a post-secondary school or the world of work.

Developing and Testing a Well-Being Transition Program for Young Adults with Disabilities and Their Families in Partnership with a School: This presentation covered the development and testing of "Be Ready, Be Well (BRBW)," a mental well-being transition program for young adults with disabilities and their families. The program emphasizes self-advocacy, active listening, and stress management strategies to help students navigate the challenges of post-secondary transition. These are important skills for all students, not just students with disabilities. <https://kihd.gmu.edu/research/brbw/>

Again, I would like to thank the TEPS committee and Dr. Frahm for allowing me to attend this conference. I was able to make connections with educators that I would have never been able to do otherwise. These three sessions are just examples of the tools I will share with my colleagues and implement in my classroom. This conference allowed me to continue to refine my teaching to have a positive impact on students with intellectual disabilities at Clarence High School and assist with the transition to life after high school.

Thank you,

Laura Staniszewski