

WHY A VISION STATEMENT MATTERS TODAY

Yaelle Nisinzweig



What is a vision statement?

- What you would like to achieve and accomplish
- Living document
- Something to help guide decisions, discussions, and keep stakeholders focused



What is your vision?

- Living
- Work
- Transportation
- Recreation/leisure
- Vacations/Trips
- Big purchases
- New skills
- Further Education
 - College/University
 - Adult
 - Community
 - Apprenticeship
 - Audit or Credit
 - Academic or elective
 - Trade



Background

- Severe special education teacher in suburb outside of Boston
- Post-graduate transition program
- Reflective Practices class as part of my Masters in SPED



Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Meeting

- Yearly meeting with student, family and team
- Student presents information about themselves including current schedule, strengths, concerns, and vision statement
- Create a plan for the following year including goals, objectives, and action steps



Student Vision Statement Examples

- Live at home until I am ready to move out. When I move out I want to live with friends or a girlfriend.
- I want to start my career life at Starbucks. I want to have a successful career as a computer tech, astronomer, or historian.
- When I travel I want to be independent. I will rely on the Ride and my mom sometimes.
- I hope to go to college and graduate to get a full time job.
- I want to continue to play parks and rec basketball.

- I want to live in Kuwait or Newton with my family.
- I would like to work at a Kindergarten and teach the kids new tasks.
- I would like to show everyone my sewing projects by creating my own museum. I would like to share my stories about my adventures in the USA to my family in Kuwait. I want to be the most famous person in the world.
- I want to continue working on Photoshop.

Project

- Step 1: Write down details about how I run IEP meetings, research best practices.
- Step 2: Observe other teachers leading IEP meetings, conduct pre and post meeting interviews.
- Step 3: Utilize new practice in my own meetings.



Findings

- Explicitly focus on vision statement throughout meeting and make sure all stakeholders are focused on student's vision statement.
- Focus on what steps can be taken move towards vision statement, not what is missing and makes the vision statement difficult.



□ Live at home until I am ready to move out. When I move out I want to live with friends or a girlfriend.



Meeting with Newton Housing Authority.
Men's group

□ I want to start my career life at Starbucks. I want to have a successful career as a computer tech, astronomer, or historian.



Informational interview and job shadow at Starbucks.
Vocational assessments
MRC programs

□ When I travel I want to be independent. I will rely on the Ride and my mom sometimes.



The Ride
MBTA

□ I hope to go to college and graduate to get a full time job.



Boston University Center for Pscyh Rehabilitation

□ I want to continue to play parks and rec basketball.



Researched additional social opportunities.

□ I want to live in Kuwait or Newton with my family.



Researched what life is like in both locations
Similarities and differences lists

□ I would like to work at a Kindergarten and teach the kids new tasks.



Volunteered in pre-school class
Volunteered in art program

□ I would like to show everyone my sewing projects by creating my own museum. I would like to share my stories about my adventures in the USA to my family in Kuwait. I want to be the most famous person in the world.



Began an Instagram account to share stories and art work.

□ I want to continue working on Photoshop.



Trialed a program at Lesley University for Photoshop and graphic design

Your Vision Statement



- What **measurable** and **achievable** action steps can you take to move closer towards your vision statement?
- Follow SMART guidelines



**Thank you for listening
and participating!**