

Getting Ready for the Age of Majority

**Thanks for joining us today.
We're glad you're here.**



Center for Parent Information & Resources

Agenda for Today's Webinar



- **Introducing...the Age of Majority Series** | *Debra Jennings, CPIR*
- **Federal Perspectives: Why Age of Majority IS a Big Deal** | *Sue Swenson, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services*
- **Getting Ready for the Age of Majority** | *Dawn Rowe, National Technical Assistance Center for Transition*
- **What Parent Centers Bring to Age of Majority** | *Cathy Haarstad, Pathfinder Services of North Dakota*

Introducing... the Age of Majority Series!

Debra Jennings

Director, Center for Parent
Information and Resources



- *Getting Ready for When Your Teen Reaches the **Age of Majority**: A Parent's Guide*
- Getting Ready for **Healthcare** at the Age of Majority
- Getting Ready for **Managing Finances** at the Age of Majority
- Getting Ready for **Independent Living** at the Age of Majority

[http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/
age-of-majority-parentguide/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/age-of-majority-parentguide/)

How the Age of Majority Series Was Developed



- OSEP | OSERS



The writers

- National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (NSTTAC)
- National Post-School Outcomes Center (NPSO)

Collaboration was the key!



The editors



- Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)

The reviewers



- Parent Center network

Federal Perspectives: Why Age of Majority *IS* a Big Deal

Sue Swenson
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Special Education and
Rehabilitative Services



Getting Ready for the Age of Majority



Dawn Rowe, Ph.D.

National Technical Assistance Center for Transition

National Post-School Outcomes Center

University of Oregon

Getting Ready for the Age of Majority

What is the “Age of Majority”?

The age when children become **legal adults** and have the right to make informed decisions



Decisions regarding:

- Education
- Voting
- Marriage
- Money
- Binding contracts
(e.g., leases, loans)
- *And so much more!!!!*

Getting Ready for the Age of Majority

**It's a
process,
not an
outcome!**



- Getting ready takes ***preparation***
- It's important to ***start early*** learning decision-making skills
- Who's in the young person's ***circle of support***? Parents, teachers, family, others...

All can help the young person develop skills in decision making!

Timing is important

Adolescence (10-19) is a critical time

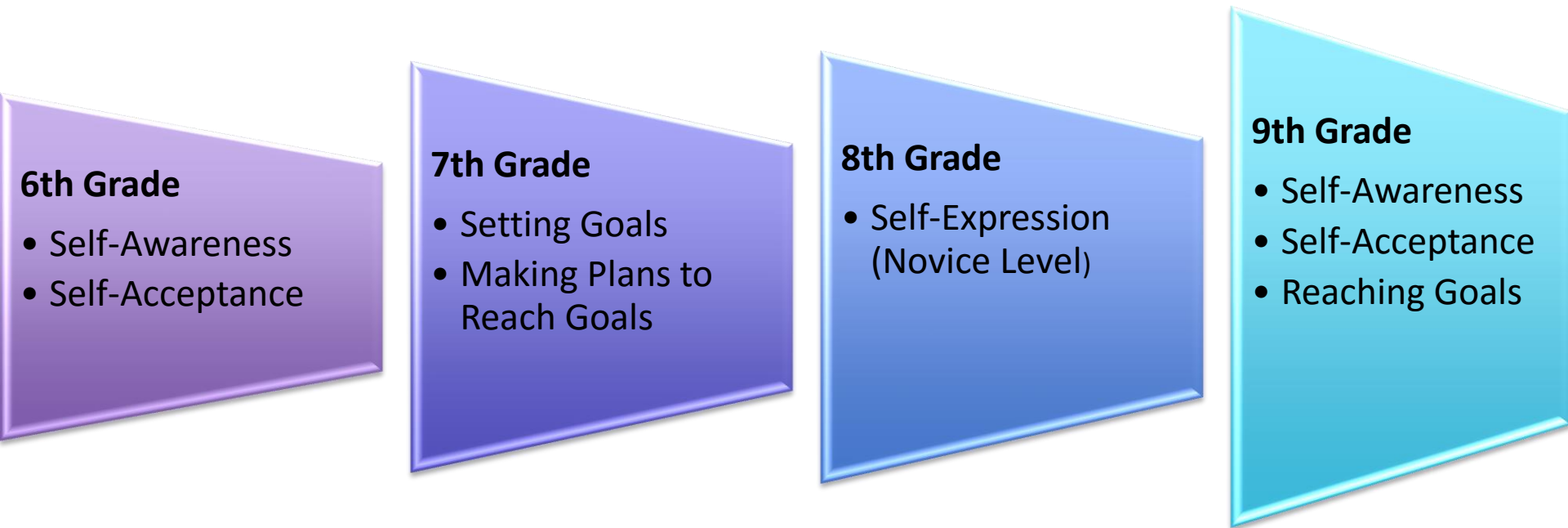
- Increased social pressure
- Poor decisions now can potentially impact youth for a long time

Start early

Teaching self-determination and self-advocacy skills will...

- Help the young person make informed decisions and choices
- Enhance engagement
- Improve student outcomes

Building Skills to Make Informed Decisions



Adapted from Peterson, Sedaghat, Burden, Van Dycke, & Pomeroy, 2013
Presented at 17th DCDT International Conference Williamsburg, VA

Building Skills to Make Informed Decisions

10th Grade

- Self-Expression (Practicing Level)
- Share Decision-making

11th Grade

- Self-Expression (Proficient Level)
- Shared Decision-making

12th Grade

- Self-Expression (Generalization Level)
- Active Decision-making

Adapted from Peterson, Sedaghat, Burden, Van Dycke, & Pomeroy, 2013
Presented at 17th DCDT International Conference Williamsburg, VA

Preparing for the Transfer of Rights



What IDEA says

“Beginning not later than one year before the child reaches the age of majority under State law, the IEP must include a statement that the child has been informed of the child’s rights under Part B of the Act, if any, that will transfer to the child on reaching the age of majority...”

For the purposes of IDEA

“Age of Majority” is referring to the age when students can make their own educational decisions

This is only the
beginning!

**After high school, youth
are faced with many
more decisions to make**



Some are quite complex!

Purpose of The Tip Sheets



To support parents in helping their youth prepare for the age of majority

- Provides definitions of key terms
- Includes tips for helping youth build decision-making skills and understand adult options
- Identifies additional resources for more information

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/age-of-majority-parentguide/>

Suggestions for Using the Age of Majority Tip Sheets

Tip sheets can be used with staff and with families to:

- ***Build a foundation*** of knowledge to help prepare youth and parents for changing roles
- Understand & ***explain technical jargon***
- Learn how to ***begin supporting students*** in building skills to make informed decisions
- Identify key ***resources in your state*** to assist in preparing youth for the age of majority



What Parent Centers Bring to the Age of Majority

Cathy Haarstad, Executive Director
Pathfinder Services of North Dakota



What Parent Centers Bring to the Age of Majority

Parent Centers can:

- Share information on AOM early and often
- Use a variety of formats
- Reach diverse parents and youth
- Share wisdom through the lens of lived experience
- Bring the resources of the entire Parent Center network to bear



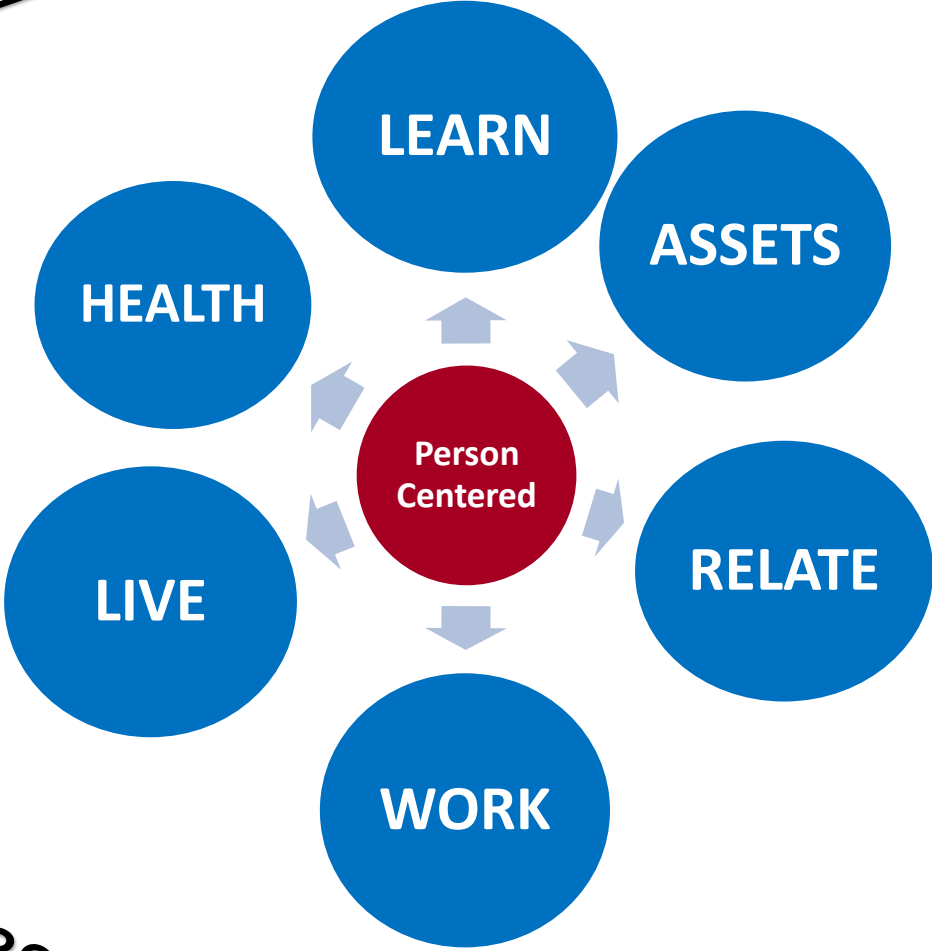
What Parent Centers *DO*



- Understand options for supported decision making
- Understand & manage risks
- Engage in person-centered planning
- Access & partner with community organizations
- Find & use a variety of resources
- Understand & prepare for next steps
- Recognize milestones & opportunities

Implications

Decisions



Strategies

Partners

SAFE

FREE

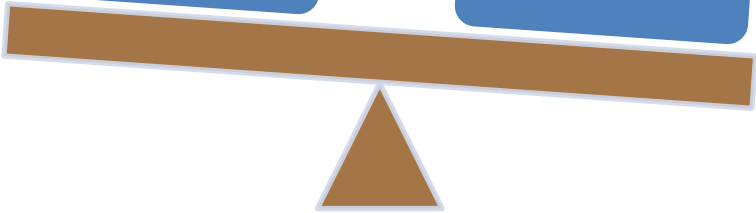
Protection

Support

Information

Experience

Choice



Elementary

- Person-centered planning
- Experience in problem solving

Middle/High


- Self-Advocacy
- Legal/Illegal
- Safe/Unsafe
- Shared decisions

After High

- Manage money
 - Get a job
 - Live in community
 - Life-long learning
-

Parent Centers Engage with Youth and Parents

We help them...

- Choose what they prefer
 - Decide which strategy works best
 - Decide what information they need
 - Decide what information to share
 - Decide when and how to act
 - Choose high school classes or partners
- 
- Lead the IEP process
 - Set goals and make plans to achieve
 - Recognize limits and manage risks



Questions?
Comments?

<http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/webinar-aom/>

You can find the slides, helpful handouts, and (very soon) the recording of this webinar on the webpage we've created for this event.

Webinar | Getting Ready for the Age of Majority

A webinar for the Parent Center Network

- **Listen to the webinar**
- **Download the Powerpoint presentation**
- **View/download the handouts for this webinar**

Webinar Date:

Thursday, December 3, 2015

Host:

Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)

Getting Ready for the Age of Majority

What is the "Age of Majority"?

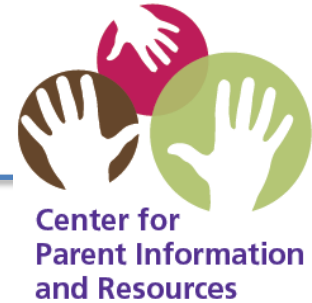
The age when children become **legal adults** and have the right to make informed decisions



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***CPIR would like to thank our
presenters today.***



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***Thank you very much for
attending this webinar.***

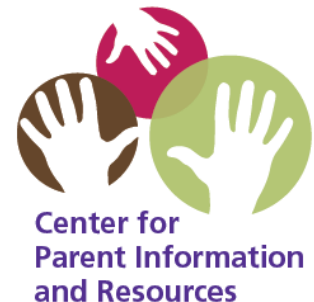
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**Please take a moment
to complete a very brief survey
about the usefulness of this webinar to you.**

We've posted the link in the "Chat" box.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ebx5kfzsihnbexd/start>

Again, thank you!