

*Transition Communities of Practice: Strengthening and Expanding Local
Interagency Transition Coordinating Councils and Teams*

Activity

Successful Collaboration Does Not Happen by Accident

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Seven essential factors to consider for successful interagency collaborations:

1. Commitment
 - sharing of goals and visions and the establishment of a high level of trust and mutual responsibility for goals held in common; compromise; focus on student outcomes.
2. Communication
 - proactive approaches; talk about differences; frequent opportunities; multiple ways; personal connection.
3. Strong Leadership from Key Decision Makers
 - authority to make decisions; available to provide assistance if problems arise; someone who can authorize use of resources to support collaboration.
4. Understanding the Culture of Collaborating Agencies
 - differing languages, values or priorities, rules and regulations, ways of doing business, and even definitions of collaboration. Taking time to learn – job shadowing, presentations, review laws and regulations.
5. Providing Adequate Resources for Collaboration
 - time and resources, additional funding sources.
6. Minimizing Turf Issues
 - likely to occur and cannot be ignored. Plan to address as they immerge.
7. Engaging in Serious Preplanning
 - steering committee to identify potential problems, key issues and similarities/differences between the cultures of participating agencies. Clearly articulate developing goals and anticipated outcomes of collaboration.

Stakeholders' views of factors that impact successful interagency collaboration

Exceptional Children; Reston; Winter 2003; Lawrence J Johnson; Debbie Zorn; Brian Kai Yung Tam; Maggie LaMontagne; Susan A Johnson