



## **Report 1**

# **Assessments and Curricula to Support Diploma -Track High School Students with Autism**

**June 2017**

# Acknowledgements

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We are extremely grateful to the school personnel who generously contributed their time and perspectives to this research. We additionally wish to thank the school personnel and administration who assisted with recruitment and hosting of focus groups.

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## About the Study

The ROAD Ahead Study focuses on high school students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) who will graduate high school with a diploma. The study is funded by [U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences \(IES\)](#). The aims of the research are to:

1. Understand the programs and strategies that parents and special educators use to teach students with autism how to manage daily life tasks, and
2. Examine how the ability to self-manage daily life tasks is associated with post-school outcomes for students with autism.

During the first phase of our research, we conducted focus groups of school personnel across Massachusetts, in order to understand the strategies and programs that schools use to support high school students with autism who are planning to graduate with a diploma. We held five focus groups in March and April 2017, attended by 23 high school personnel. The participants included assistive technology specialists, autism specialists, special education teachers, special education administrators, speech language pathologists, transition coordinators, and vocational counselors.

The focus groups provided helpful insights and themes in understanding school-based services for students with autism graduating with a diploma. This information also aided us in refining and planning for the second phase of our research. In fall 2017 we will begin conducting:

1. An online survey with school personnel to better understand the interventions and support provided to these students, and
2. A short-term longitudinal study with parents and students with ASD to identify the predictors of optimal post-school outcomes.

For more information about the next phase of research, please visit <http://sites.bu.edu/roadahead/>.

## About this Report

As we conduct our research, we will share resources and suggestions that may be beneficial to school personnel, families, and students. Reports will be published at <http://sites.bu.edu/roadahead/>.

During the focus groups, many school personnel mentioned assessments and curricula they used when providing services to diploma-track students with autism. We have compiled the resources mentioned during focus groups into this report. The inclusion of any resource or website link does not imply endorsement. We hope you find this report helpful. Thank you for your participation!

**Table 1. Assessments and curricula used with high school students receiving special education services under the autism category.**

<b>Assessment/ Curriculum</b>	<b>Purpose/Details</b>	<b>Areas assessed</b>	<b>Completed by</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>More information</b>
Assessment of Functional Living Skills (AFLS)	Criterion-related assessment of skills in children with autism (ages +2)	Basic, home, community, school, vocational, independent living skills	Parent, educator, or therapist	\$40 and up	<a href="https://partingtonbehavioralysts.com/products/afls/">https://partingtonbehavioralysts.com/products/afls/</a>
AIR Self-Determination Scale	Survey of self-determination in students with disabilities. Includes IEP goals based on student skills	Self-determination and IEP goal needs	Student, parent, and educator	Free online	<a href="http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/self-determination-assessment-tools/air-self-determination-assessment.html">http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/self-determination-assessment-tools/air-self-determination-assessment.html</a>
ARC's Self-Determination Scale	Survey of self-determination in students with disabilities. Includes goal-directed worksheets.	Self-determination, autonomy, self-realization, psychological empowerment, and self-regulation	Student	Free online	<a href="http://www.ou.edu/content/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/self-determination-assessment-tools/arc-self-determination-scale.html">http://www.ou.edu/content/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/self-determination-assessment-tools/arc-self-determination-scale.html</a>
Behavior Assessment System for Children (BASC-3)	Norm-based assessment (ages 2-21) of child behavior. Includes self-report of personality (ages 6-21). Print or web-based.	Adaptive and maladaptive behavior	Student, parent, and educator	\$118 and up	<a href="http://www.pearsonclinical.com/education/products/10001402/behavior-assessment-system-for-children-third-edition-basc-3.html">http://www.pearsonclinical.com/education/products/10001402/behavior-assessment-system-for-children-third-edition-basc-3.html</a>
BRIGANCE Transition Skills Inventory	Criterion-referenced inventory and curriculum guide for transitions (middle and high school students)	Employment, living, and post-secondary skills	Student and educator	\$259 and up	<a href="http://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/detail.aspx?title=BrigTSl#additional_nav">http://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/detail.aspx?title=BrigTSl#additional_nav</a>
Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM)-Fourth Edition	Outcome measure of occupational performance (ages 7+) Print or mobile app.	Self-care, productivity, and leisure	Student and educator	\$190 and up	<a href="http://www.thecopm.ca/">http://www.thecopm.ca/</a>
Executive Function Performance Test (EFPT)	Observational standardized assessment of executive functioning (ages 13+)	Initiation, organization, execution, sequencing, completion, judgment and safety, and level of cuing needed	Educator	Free online	<a href="http://www.ot.wustl.edu/about/resources/executive-function-performance-test-efpt-308">http://www.ot.wustl.edu/about/resources/executive-function-performance-test-efpt-308</a>
ESTR-S Transition Assessment	Transition ratings for students with disabilities. Print or online	Needs, interests, and preferences in employment, recreation, home, and community	Student and educator	\$20 per ten reports	<a href="https://www.estr.net/index.cfm">https://www.estr.net/index.cfm</a>
Functional Assessment of Verbal Reasoning and Executive Strategies (S-FAVRES)	Norm-referenced communication and cognition assessment of students with and without brain injury (ages 12-19)	Cognitive skills, communication, comprehension, emotional regulation	Educator	\$405	<a href="http://www.ccdpublishing.com/sfavres.aspx">http://www.ccdpublishing.com/sfavres.aspx</a>
Self-Determination Assessment - Internet	Scale and observation of student self-determination. Middle/high school and College/college-bound editions.	Perceptions of student's self-determination	Student, parent, or educator	\$3 per assessment form; free user manual online	<a href="http://www.ealveducation.com/index.html?session=store:80C578B30c681225CAXPoJ796BAA">http://www.ealveducation.com/index.html?session=store:80C578B30c681225CAXPoJ796BAA</a>
Financial Literacy Test & Surveys	Surveys and quiz of financial literacy in early adulthood.	Comprehension of banking, paying bills, student loans, credit cards, etc.	Student	Free online	<a href="https://www.financialeducators.org/financial-literacy-test/">https://www.financialeducators.org/financial-literacy-test/</a>

Guide to Assessing College Readiness	Assesses fundamental college skills for students with ADHD and learning disabilities, with discussion of disability awareness	Academic skills, self-understanding, self-advocacy, executive function, motivation, and confidence	Student and educator	Free online	<a href="https://transitioncoalition.org/blog/assessment-review/a-guide-to-assessing-college-readiness/">https://transitioncoalition.org/blog/assessment-review/a-guide-to-assessing-college-readiness/</a>
Life Centered Education (LCE) Transition Curriculum and Assessment	Online transition assessment and curriculum portal; training for students and educators	Daily living, employment, and self-determination/ interpersonal skills	Student and educator	\$660 and up	<a href="https://www.cec.sped.org/Publications/LCE-Transition-Curriculum">https://www.cec.sped.org/Publications/LCE-Transition-Curriculum</a>
Life Skills Inventory/ Independent Living Skills Assessment Tool	Competency checklist of life skills	Money management, food management, personal appearance and hygiene, health, housing, housekeeping, transportation, educational planning, job seeking and maintenance skills, emergency and safety skills, knowledge of community resources, interpersonal skills, legal skills, pregnancy prevention/parenting and child care	Student, parent, and educator	Free online	<a href="https://transitioncoalition.org/blog/assessment-review/life-skills-inventoryindependent-living-skills-assessment-tool/">https://transitioncoalition.org/blog/assessment-review/life-skills-inventoryindependent-living-skills-assessment-tool/</a>
Links Curriculum:	Assessment and simulations of school and community routines for students with autism and developmental disabilities. Includes IEP goal recommendations	Skills and independence in routine activities, ex: cafeteria socializing, fire drill, parking lot safety, making a resume.	Student and educator	Free trial, then \$695 and up	<a href="http://linkscurriculum.com/">http://linkscurriculum.com/</a>
The Naked Roommate: And 107 Other Issues You Might Run Into in College	Help guide for students transitioning to college. Website links to podcasts, articles and video trainings. Not specifically written for students with autism.	Example topics: Making friends, college expectations vs. reality, emailing professors, reading a textbook, etc.	Student, parent, or educator	\$10 and up for book Free online resources	<a href="http://www.harlancohen.com/">http://www.harlancohen.com/</a>
O*NET Online: My Next Move	Database and surveys of career exploration and planning, written for young adults and searchable by interest, job outlook, and skills.	Checklists of knowledge, skills, abilities, personality traits, and technology, education, and salary/hiring outlook.	Student	Free online	<a href="https://www.onetonline.org/">https://www.onetonline.org/</a>

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