

Individualized Success Planning: Meeting the Unique Needs of Every Child

Every child has unique needs and abilities. By creating new ways to understand and support each child as an individual with interests and goals as well as needs for tailored supports, all children can thrive. Yet, a one-size-fits-all experience is common, leaving many students academically behind, feeling disconnected from schools, and lacking important services and opportunities necessary to succeed.

Across the country, education and community leaders are addressing this challenge by collectively harnessing a personalized, relationship-based approach—what [EdRedesign](#) calls Success Planning—to expand opportunity for all children.

WHAT IS SUCCESS PLANNING?



Recognizing that different communities have varying needs and capacities, EdRedesign has developed a set of [guiding principles](#) and core components for Success Planning rather than a single model. These components are:

- ✚ A **Navigator**—an adult who forms an individual relationship with a child and, ideally, their family, and develops an understanding of the child’s needs and interests;
- ✚ A **plan** for action and a process for enacting it;
- ✚ A coordinated **system** of supports and opportunities;
- ✚ A data **platform** to capture information over time.

Our [Success Planning framework](#) distills key elements of several models for personalizing supports for children, emphasizing both the importance of one-on-one relationships between adults and children and integrated, comprehensive supports. Success Planning should ideally not be a standalone effort, but part of a broader community-wide strategy to support children that is coordinated by a cross-sector Children’s Cabinet or other governing body.

HOW CAN YOU GET STARTED WITH SUCCESS PLANNING?

While schools are the most common sites for Success Planning, other youth-serving programs can also serve in this role. One option is to partner with an organization, such as Communities in Schools, City Connects, or BARR, that already has a model with elements of Success Planning. Another is to create your own version of Success Planning, identifying an initial starting point and building in additional components over time.

HOW IS EDREDESIGN SUPPORTING SUCCESS PLANNING?

EdRedesign has launched a Success Planning learning community to assist districts, schools, and community-based organizations in creating and implementing a personalized student support effort and/or scale an initiative already underway. For more information and to stay informed about subsequent sessions, please contact edredesign@gse.harvard.edu. We also develop practical tools and other resources for the broader field, which can be found on our [website](#).

The [Education Redesign Lab](#) is leading a network of communities across the country that are working across sectors to prepare all young people for success in and out of school. We are advancing a new model for education, one that integrates a comprehensive system of supports and opportunities from cradle to career.