

**Think College: Coordinating Center for Transition and Postsecondary Programs for  
Students with Intellectual Disabilities  
Abstract**

Think College (TC) is uniquely poised to operate the **Coordinating Center (CC) for Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)** given its existing infrastructure, dynamic website, unparalleled expertise, and national network. To this end, TC proposes the following major goals:

**1) Create knowledge development and implement an evaluation protocol**—to ensure uniform data collection and synthesis of student outcomes and program strengths in academic enrichment, socialization, independent living, and integrated competitive employment. The CC will create and implement three evaluation mechanisms: a) **Needs Assessment and Implementation Scale**, which will categorize TPSIDs into three cohorts, reflecting their implementation status, and identify adherence to TPSID requirements and needed technical assistance; b) **Standards and Quality Indicators Tool**, a web-based self-assessment tool comprised of eight (8) standards, eighteen (18) associated quality indicators, and seventy-seven (77) benchmarks aligned with HEOA, to help TPSIDs create, expand, or enhance high-quality, inclusive PSE experiences supporting positive outcomes for SWID; and c) **Evaluation Protocol**, reflecting the tools, system, and schedule used to support online data collection from TPSIDs, that will document student academic, social, independent living, and employment activities and outcomes. The CC online data hub will serve as a comprehensive coordination system and synthesize data collected by TPSIDs, assess implementation fidelity, ensure data reliability, and foster information dissemination.

**2) Provide dissemination and training and technical assistance (TTA) for TPSIDs**—to develop key components related to evidence-based practices for PSE programs, create a credentialing template for SWID upon completion of PSE program, and evaluate for continuous improvement using multi-modal web-based tools. CC's expanded Think College (Think College Live) website will serve as an E-clearinghouse on PSE for SWID and make available written products in fully accessible text, as well as in portable document format (PDF). The CC will create a 'TTA on Demand' section providing access to existing evaluation materials, protocols, data tools, and to the Think College Live relational online TTA database to ensure accessibility by TPSIDs and national audiences. The CC will develop a series of universally designed web-based learning units, called Think College Trends, related to standards, evaluation, and promising practices (e.g., universal course design, bona fide socializing, independent living, competitive employment, and policy and administrative structures).

**3) Conduct leadership and coordination activities**—to promote collaboration efforts among TPSIDs and others working to support SWID in PSE, by developing a variety of accessible communication channels. For instance, in collaboration with the TPSID grantees, the CC will develop a Community of Practice (CoP) and related Special Interest Groups (SIGs), plan/host an annual face-to-face Project Directors Meeting (PDM) and gather resources of cross-program interest, such as memorandums of agreement (MOAs), policy and administration infrastructure, and funding strategies (including financial aid). The CC will convene an expert workgroup to develop criteria and standards needed for instructional accreditation (at state and regional levels), then create a summary report and submit recommendations (regarding the feasibility of aligning the TPSID model with existing accreditation standards) to the Secretary of Education, the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity, and related entities within the five-year project period.