

GUIDE TO SUPPORTING STUDENT TRANSITIONS INTO NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Transitions from one learning environment to another can be difficult for any student. Below are several strategies to support positive and successful transitions for students.

REDUCE DEMANDS



- Increase opportunities for student success
- Intersperse known versus new learning material
- Prioritize and only focus on critical skills (e.g., communication, readiness skills)
- Regression may have occurred, informal reassessment can help to determine current skill levels

INCREASE THE SCHEDULE OF REINFORCEMENT

- Enrich the environment with preferred activities
- Deliver student specific reinforcement more frequently
- Increase use of most highly preferred items/activities as potential reinforcers
- Re-establish rapport with students
- Preferences change; consider utilizing informal preference assessments or surveys



RETEACH ROUTINES & EXPECTATIONS



- Explicitly review behavioral expectations
- Review and practice classroom routines
- Provide multiple opportunities to practice
- Reinforce skills during practice and natural opportunities
- Consider using techniques like video modeling, role play, and/or visual cues
- Utilize fun and engaging learning strategies to increase success

ADD SUPPORTS TO INCREASE STUDENT SUCCESS

- Set up environment to increase predictability and structure
- Consider seating arrangements, placement/storage of materials, ability of adults to monitor and support students
- Consider use of visual supports (e.g., schedules, timers)
- Students may need access to previously used supports
- Ensure consistent student expectations



FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

- Regression is normal following an extended break from school
- Minimize attention to unwanted behavior; instead, explicitly state expected behavior
- Recognize and reinforce small successes, both for staff and students

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For additional support and resources contact your BC or visit the help desk to request assistance.

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