**How Parents can help**

* **Do NOT obtain full guardianship over your child – IPSE programs cannot admit students who have no decision-making power**
* **Teach your child that he/she can go to college**
  + **Let them know that the goal is to help them be independent, contributing members of the community**
  + **Let them know that they can “shop” for a college**
* **Apply for a waiver as early as possible**
  + **Yes, there are long waiting lists, and they may be told no in the end because there are not sufficient funds, but the funds won’t increase if we don’t add the students to the list**
  + **These funds, in some cases, can be used to help with college needs**
* **Connect your child to Vocational Rehabilitation**
  + **Have them referred while your child is in middle school – as part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**
  + **Have a complete referral made while in high school, letting them know the student is interested in Inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs**
* **Request that we be invited to your child’s IEP meetings!**
  + **To assist in writing the transition plan in a manner that will address needs for IPSE programs**
* **Send your child to overnight camp-type experiences**
* **If your child takes medication, teach him/her to become independent**

**in this by using a Smart Phone App such as My Med Schedule**

* **Teach your child how to do laundry, make simple meals, use a microwave**
* **Start teaching your child some budgeting skills (counting money, making change, paying for items on a grocery list, etc.)**
* **Assign your child household chores – keeping their room, a bathroom, and a common living area clean, emptying trash, etc.**
* **Start saving for college - most federal assistance is “needs based” on parent income so you may be responsible for part of the costs**
* **There are Smart Phone apps to help with all sorts of needs (such as shopping, relaxation breathing, read aloud text, etc.), so start teaching your child to use these.**