**How a Parent Mentor can help**

* **Talk to parents about Inclusive Post-Secondary Education (IPSE) Programs**
	+ **Let them know that their child can attend college**
	+ **Let them know that it is a certificate program**
	+ **Let them know that the goal is to help them be independent, contributing members of the community**
	+ **Let them know that their child with special needs can “shop” for a college**
* **Include us in meetings with parents to discuss IPSE options**
* **Set up meetings/resource fairs where parents can meet with us to hear about IPSE programs**
* **Encourage parents to apply for a waiver as early as possible**
	+ **Yes, there are long waiting lists.**
	+ **Yes, 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**
	+ **Let them know these funds, in some cases, can be used to help with college needs**
* **Encourage parents to connect their child to Vocational Rehabilitation**
	+ **Have them referred while the student is in middle school for middle school services (WIOA)**
	+ **Have a complete referral made while in high school, making certain they know the student is interested in Inclusive Post-Secondary Education programs**
* **Invite us to IEP meetings! / Consult with us to provide IPSE guidance and support**
	+ **High school to help develop individualized transition plans**
	+ **Middle school to help guide transition options concerning potential attendance at an Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Program**
	+ **Elementary to put the idea of Post-Secondary Education into the realm of possibilities**
* **Encourage parents to create a college savings plan as federal funds are “needs based”**