

William Phillips, Ed.D., Dr. Phillips is the Dean of the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, where he has served since 2006. Transition to adulthood in youth with disabilities is Dr. Phillips' primary research focus. As Dean of the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, Dr. Phillips has worked to bring innovation to the transition services provided at Model Laboratory School, a pre-kindergarten through high school facility within the College of Education. He has sponsored topical lecture series and professional learning communities for the University and community at large.

Dr. Phillips is a well published special education researcher and higher education leader. He has worked diligently at the national level to identify and adopt best practices in transition services, including many of the foundational concepts included in this study. He has degrees in Special Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi. He has been a special education professional specializing in transitions for 34 years, including work in community based services and preparation program reform and research initiatives.

At Eastern Kentucky University, Dr. Phillips manages the administration and operation of the College of Education which is comprised of six academic departments and eight various grant programs and offices of support services. He maintains accreditations, attends to program improvement issues and is responsible for \$11 million in grants and \$14 million in personnel budgets. Employing best practices in using Professional Learning Communities, he has strategically cut weak programs while concomitantly strengthening essential programs, recruited and retained diverse faculty, raised external funds to support the College's agenda, implemented a nationally recognized quality enhancement plan to develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively, formed the Center for Educational Research in Appalachia to help rural schools and communities get better together and initiated a new doctoral degree in educational leadership and policy studies.

Dr. Phillips has been the recipient of external funding throughout his career including funding for community based services, public schools, and universities. As Dean, he has been responsible for managing \$5 million in funding from the Council on Postsecondary Education to improve education. It is this funding, in part, that has supported his efforts in transition services research.

Dr. Phillips provides excellent skills and experience to support research, as well as to provide leadership among higher educators and public school personnel in developing best practice transition services to youth with disabilities. The resources he brings through his role as Dean of a College of Education with an embedded P-12 school and the Center for Educational Research in Appalachia also add significant value to any project he sponsors.