

Gratitude & Growth

REFRAMING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

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A commitment to collaboration, a focus on student strengths, and working with a shared purpose can transform difficult conversations into powerful opportunities for growth.

FOCUS ON COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING

Maintain a mindset that the team is working together to find solutions. Frame disagreements as an opportunity to find a better path forward, rather than as a conflict to be won or lost. Avoid assigning blame and instead, focus on collaboratively developing a plan that promotes student success.

GROUND THE CONVERSATION IN STUDENT STRENGTHS AND DATA

Highlight the student's strengths and accomplishments. Use objective data from assessments, observations, and reports, balanced with qualitative input from teachers, family, and the student. Student-centered and asset-based IEPs acknowledge that the student is a person first, and a learner second, driving positive, potential-focused conversations.

COMMUNICATE CLEAR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Clarify the roles of each team member to ensure everyone understands their part in the student's education and to prevent confusion, helping reduce defensiveness and reactive discussions, and promoting a focus on student outcomes rather than unexpected challenges.

Exploring our own and others' mental models allows you to identify the beliefs and assumptions brought to the table in IEP conversations.

Strategies To Support Student-Centered and Asset-Based IEPs from Pathways to Partnership

Providing a parent checklist before the IEP fosters a collaborative tone and provides a structure for discussion.