

Preface

Twenty years ago, like many other teachers, we realized that some high school students did not seem to benefit from traditional curriculum and needed additional help and support. As teachers who cared deeply about the outcome of schooling for all students, we wanted to find a way to make the academic experience more relevant while supporting full access to a standards-based curriculum.

Now 20 years later, we are so happy that *The Transitions Curriculum* continues to be used effectively in a wide variety of educational programs across the US and Canada. During this time, changes have occurred and new focus areas have been mandated. For example, there continues to be a strong emphasis on safety and privacy; the use of technology has become a way of life; and economic changes have led to shifting employment trends. In addition, education itself continues to focus on a rigorous, standards-based core curriculum and mandates for high-stakes testing. Yet with all of these changes our students continue to need a relevant curriculum that provides practical and real-life bridges to adult life.

We are in the second decade of the 21st Century and it is important to address these changes and incorporate ideas from teachers, students and parents in a new edition of *The Transitions Curriculum*. This edition includes new topics on issues that young adults face in the 21st century with an emphasis on safe and effective use of technology such as computers, cell phones and other hand-held devices. Lessons have been updated to include current information and statistics as well as the newest research-based instructional strategies.

A survey of teachers in a large school district revealed that *The Transitions Curriculum* continues to be an effective, comprehensive and teacher-friendly resource. Feedback from these teachers, many who have used the curriculum for over five years, include:

- *The Transitions Curriculum* provides practical application based on academic skills.
- *The Transitions Curriculum* provides an atmosphere for students to increase their self-esteem and improve their social relationships.
- *The Transition Curriculum* builds problem solving and decision making skills that add confidence and a sense of responsibility.
- *The Transitions Curriculum* provides a foundation for students to make realistic decisions about careers.

As we continue through the 21st century, *The Transitions Curriculum* provides us with an effective tool to prepare youth for the challenges of adult life.

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