

November 2008

**TO:** Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

**FROM:** Mary Jo Nichols  
Grants Administrator

**RE:** Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

The most recent longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners in Policymaking graduates was completed by John Johnson, Ph.D., and submitted on September 4, 2008. This study includes Partners Years XVI through XIX (Classes 20 through 23).

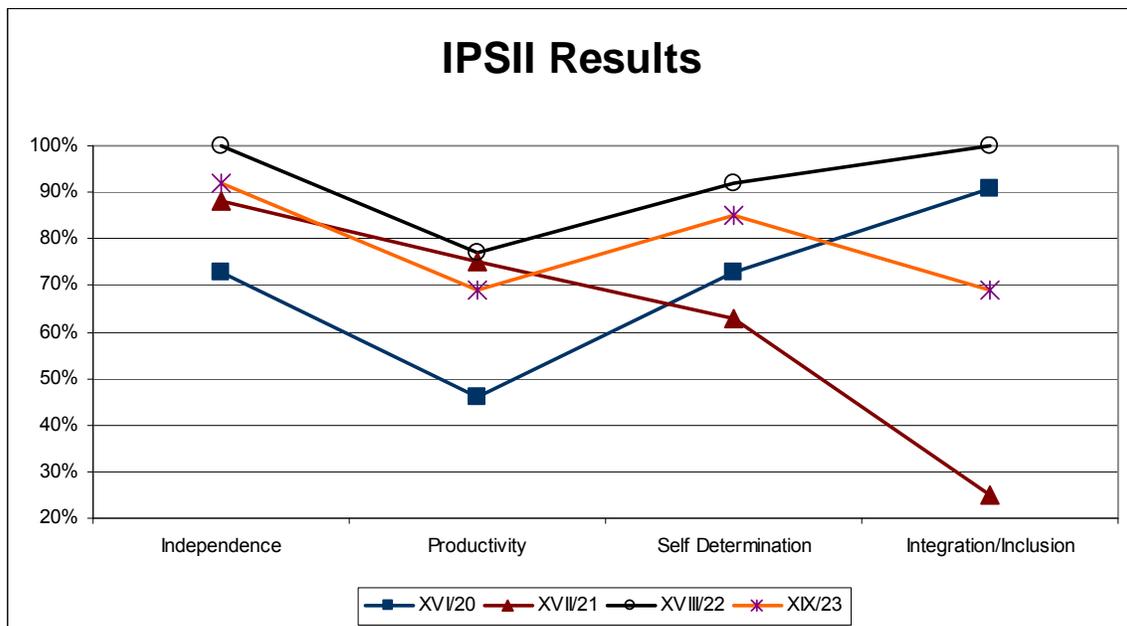
The overall response rate was 44% (45/102); our goal is 40%. This is a higher response rate than we have experienced in recent years.

A copy of the complete study is available upon request. Following is a summary of the results:

#### **IPSII Results by Year/Class**

	<b>XVI/20</b>	<b>XVII/21</b>	<b>XVIII/22</b>	<b>XIX/23</b>
<b>Response rate</b>	38%	32%	54%	54%
↑ <b>Independence</b>	73%	88%	100%	92%
↑ <b>Productivity</b>	46%	75%	77%	69%
↑ <b>Self Determination</b>	73%	63%	92%	85%
↑ <b>Integration/Inclusion</b>	91%	25%	100%	69%

### Longitudinal Study



	XVI/20	XVII/21	XVIII/22	XIX/23
Skills learned help me to get appropriate services*	91%	88%	100%	92%
Current leadership skills**	100%	88%	100%	100%

\* Most/some of the time  
 \*\* Good-excellent

**PLEASE NOTE:** For Year VII/Class 21, only 8 of 25 Partners graduates responded to the survey.

Partners graduates identified significant changes in the areas of education, employment, housing, family support, case management, health care, friendships, assistive technology, and other areas that they attribute to their Partners experience.

Highlights are as follows:

Education: More inclusion at school; education pursuits for my child; easier college planning for my daughter; started transition process and looking at post secondary options; more involved in the IEP process; children are more included in school and community.

Employment: Switched careers and much happier; have a better paying job; got a job I love.

Housing: I live in a better place.

Family Support: More family support services; more outspoken with family support staff.

Case Management: Better case management and have self directed services under the CADI waiver.

Health Care: Know how to best utilize health care services.

Friendships: Have more friends.

Assistive Technology: More technology options are being included at school.

Other: Developed a stronger network; quality of life is better; improved personal and professional networking skills; have the tools to find available options; very involved in advocacy organizations; getting better at advocating for my son's needs in school and community.

Partners graduates identified skills learned during the program and ones that they continue to use today in both work and family life. This is an indicator of the long term benefits can value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Personal advocacy (4)
- Legislative advocacy (3)
- Networking (3)
- Self confidence (3)
- Decisionmaking (2)
- Navigating (2)
- Researching (2)
- Assertiveness (1)
- Creativity (1)
- Listening (1)
- Negotiating (1)
- Persistence (1)
- Self advocacy (1)

Other comments:

- Fantastic; it gave me the knowledge and confidence to help my child and others in the community.
- A great, great experience.
- The history was hard to hear but really sets the stage for how far we have come, yet how easy it is to go backward.
- One of the greatest things I did.
- Well organized.
- Excellent program.
- I have taught my son to be more of an advocate for himself. I am more aware of access to information and knowledge about my son's disability.