

June 2019

**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 Nancy Miller, Consultant/Metropolitan State University, and submitted on April 2, 2019. Partners Years XXVIII through XXX (Classes 32 – 34) are included in this year's study.

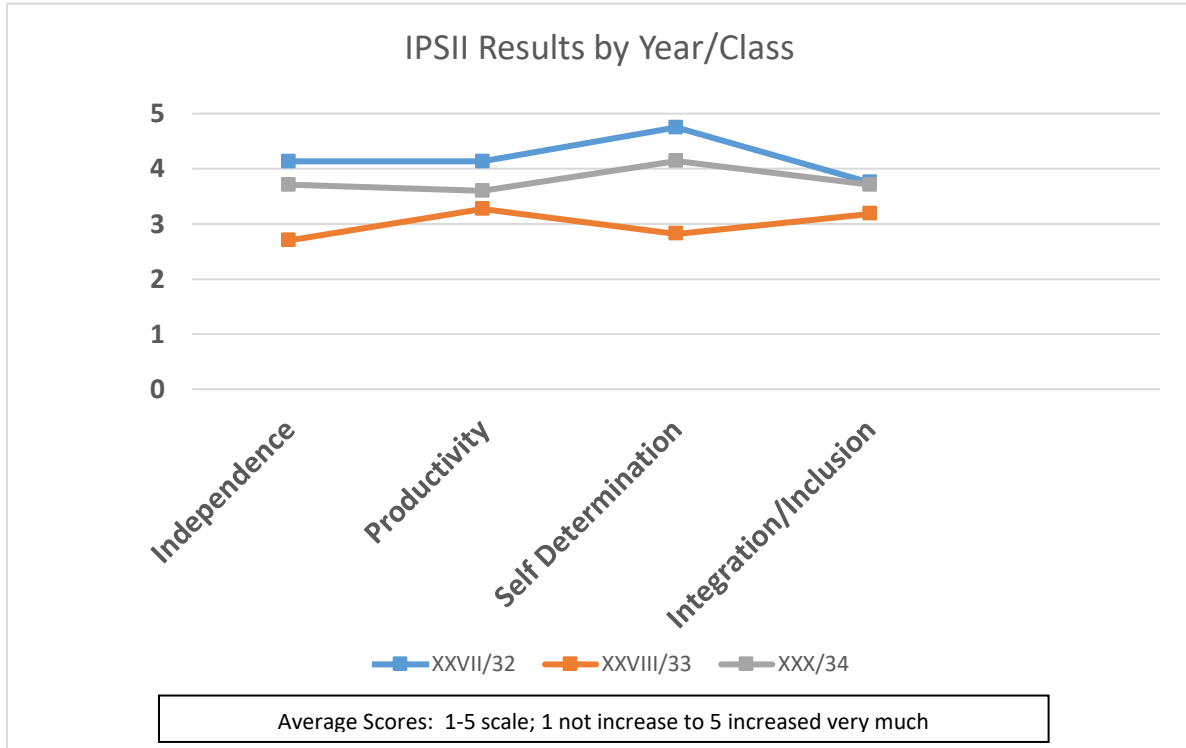
**NOTE:** This year's study results are based on new AIDD performance measures and a customer satisfaction survey that was modified to include demographic data and specific outcomes that must be included in the annual federal Program Performance Report (PPR).:

The overall response rate was 44% (35/80); our goal is 40%.

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

**IPSII Results by Year/Class**  
(Average Scores: Scale of 1 – 5; 5 = highest)

	<b>XXVIII/32</b>	<b>XXVIX/33</b>	<b>XXX/34</b>
<b>Response Rate</b>	36%	41%	54%
<b>Independence</b>	4.13	2.70	3.71
<b>Productivity</b>	4.13	3.27	3.60
<b>Self Determination</b>	4.75	2.82	4.14
<b>Integration/Inclusion</b>	3.75	3.18	3.71



	<b>XXVIII/32</b>	<b>XXVIX/33</b>	<b>XXX/34</b>
Percent (%) satisfied with the Partners in Policymaking Program	100%	100%	100%
Overall Satisfaction with the Partners in Policymaking Program*	100%	100%	100%

\* Excellent/Very Good/Good

**Performance Outcome Measures by Year/Class\*  
(% Percent)**

	<b>XXVIII/32</b>	<b>XXVIX/33</b>	<b>XXX/34</b>
I am increasing my advocacy.	100%	100%	100%
I am better able to say what I want, and what is important to me.	100%	100%	100%
I am now participating in advocacy activities.	67%	73%	93%
I am serving on a cross-disability coalition, policy board, advisory board, governing body and/or serving in a leadership position.	44%	64%	67%

[\*Question: Please answer these questions with a 'Yes' or 'No'. Because of Partners in Policymaking...]

Partners graduates identified significant changes in the areas of education, employment, housing, family support, services/supports, legislative, healthcare, and other areas that attribute to their Partners experience.

Highlights are as follows:

Education:

1. My daughter is in a level 1 setting at school and in the regular community ed Summer program. Partners increased my ability to think in strengths based ways for my daughter and think outside the box on 'programming' for kids with special needs.
2. My experience was excellent because I can support my family in IEP at school.
3. My son, Matthew, who has Down syndrome is now fully included in his high school.

4. I am parent to two teens with disabilities. In the last year, my older teen has matured in his future plans to include college and further law school. My younger teen is more directly involved in following legislative process. She has decided on pursuing a college career, in Astrobiology already attending lectures on Physics and Quantum Mechanics at the University of MN, Twin Cities. Then perhaps a legislative career.
5. I have joined the State of MN Special Ed Advisory Panel, my local SEAC, I was able to speak in front of 700 people in total in 2018 on inclusion and acceptance in Mankato and already have a keynote speech booked for 2019.

#### Employment:

1. I got a job working for the State Attorney General's Office, and am starting to become involved in outings with other people with disabilities.
2. I took more leadership roles at work.
3. I work part-time for a non-profit helping other families connect with resources and advocate for their children.

#### Housing:

1. I am now living on my own and am very happy and grateful for that.
2. I became my own Guardian and just moved out into my own place.

#### Family Support:

1. The program gave me the voice I didn't have for my son before. It gave me the confidence to stand up for him and the knowledge to know how to best advocate for my son in all situations we encounter.
2. Member of SEAC in school district, better advocate for my son.

#### Services/Supports:

1. I am able to navigate my 2 sons' services at the county much easier as I understand the way things work.

Legislative:

1. I served on state councils, testified to the senate, and assisted in writing public policies
2. I am more knowledgeable, confident and active in regards to advocacy at the local and state level. I helped start an advocacy club at work. I have been able to guide my now 13 year old son towards self-advocacy which he is growing in.

Healthcare:

1. Being more communicative with Drs and other healthcare professionals to get what I need for my child. Knowing I have a network of friends in the same or similar situation whom I can ask for advice or directions on where/whom I need to speak with. We are getting better at asking for help when/where needed.

Other:

1. My advocacy, particularly around issues of para-transit, has become more focused in terms of with whom and how I advocate. In general I'm taking steps to form an on-line community in which issues can be explored deeply and from divers perspectives.

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 and value of the Partners leadership training program:

- Personal advocacy (7)
- Confidence (5)
- Legislative advocacy (4)
- Networking (4)
- Awareness (3)
- Government/how it works (3)
- Communication (2)

## Demographic Data: Total Participants (Classes 32, 33, and 34)

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Gender</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>%</b>
White or Caucasian alone	31	88%		Male	10	29%
Black or African American alone	0	0%		Female	25	71%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	0	0%		Other	0	0%
Hispanic/Latino	1	3%		<b>Geographic Area</b>		
Asian or Asian American alone	2	6%		Urban	28	80%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%		Rural	7	20%
Two or more races	1	3%				
Race Unknown	0	0%		<b>Category</b>		
				Individual with a Developmental Disability	9	26%
				Family Member	26	74%