



MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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TO: Members, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

FROM: Mary Jo Nichols
Grants Administrator

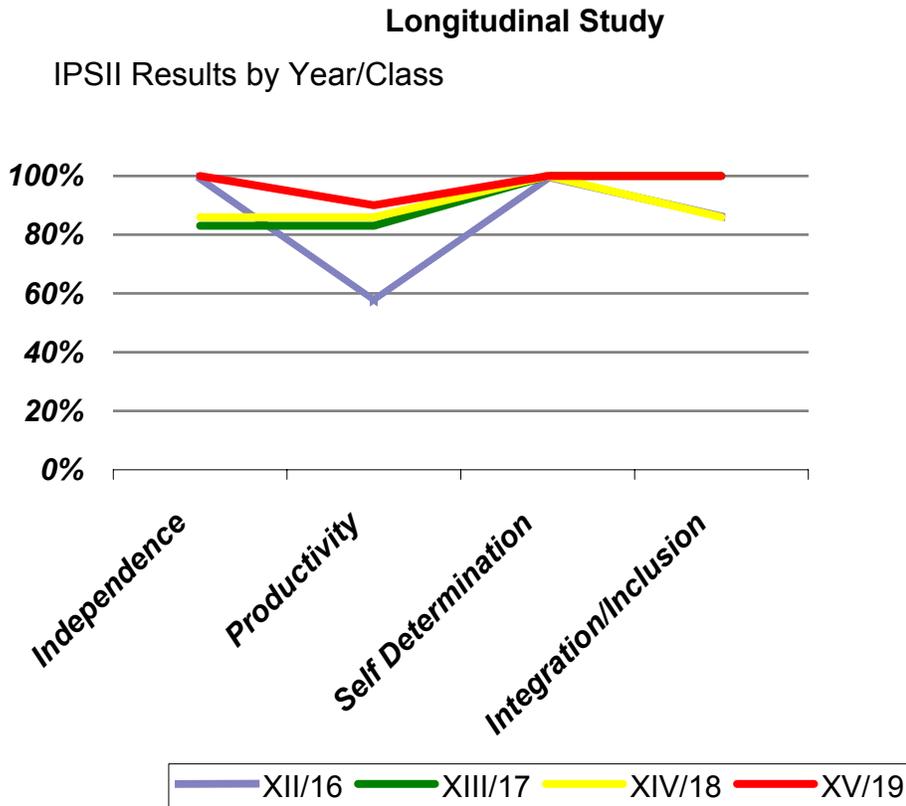
RE: Partners in Policymaking® Longitudinal Study

Tom Zirpoli, Ph.D. has completed a longitudinal study of Minnesota Partners graduates for Years XII through XV (Class 16 through Class 19). The overall response rate was 31% (36/117); our goal was 45%. This compares with a 47% response rate for the longitudinal study completed in March 2003.

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

IPSII Results by Year/Class

	XII/16	XIII/17	XIV/18	XV/19
Response rate	30%	39%	23%	30%
Independence	100%	83%	86%	100%
Productivity	57%	83%	86%	90%
Self Determination	100%	100%	100%	100%
Integration/Inclusion	86%	100%	86%	100%



	XII/16	XIII/17	XIV/18	XV/19
Can get appropriate services*	100%	100%	100%	100%
Skills help me to get appropriate services**	100%	100%	100%	100%
Current leadership skills*	100%	100%	100%	100%

*good-excellent
 **most/some of the time

Partners graduates identified **significant life changes** in the areas of housing, education, employment, family support, technology, health care, and friendships that they attribute to their Partners experience. Highlights from these areas are as follows:

Housing: In my own apartment with SILS support; housing situation greatly improved;

Employment: Trying to increase hours at current job;

Education: Better educational services for daughter; successful in getting an IEP and extended school year services (ESY);

Family Support: Receiving waiver services; getting family support services (3 mentions);

Technology: Needed equipment is now in child's classroom; getting technology for children without paying out of pocket;

Health Care: Can better manage health care needs;

Friendships: Have made lots of friends and keep in touch for advice and networking;

Partners graduates identified **skills learned** during the Partners program that they continue to use today. This is an indicator of the long term value of the program:

- Advocacy (4)
- Assertiveness (2)
- Communication (6)
- General leadership skills (3)
- Interpersonal (2)
- Networking (2)
- Partnerships/collaboration (3)
- Perseverance (2)
- Researching (3)
- Visioning/goal setting

Other comments included:

- Partners was a wonderful experience.
- I learned what services are available, how to speak up and get services.
- I learned that what my son has is because I stood on the shoulders of parents before me; now it's my turn to continue.
- To be a good leader, we need to be a good follower and a good listener, how to give and how to take.
- I now come to meetings with appropriate preparation on the issues and knowledge of the policy players.