



Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

Dr. Marianne Fidishin, Executive Director

1304 Ronzheimer Avenue

St. Charles, IL 60174

Phone: 331-228-4873

Fax: 331-228-4874

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Marianne Fidishin, PhD, Executive Director

DATE: June 27, 2018

RE: STEP Grant Update

The Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Program has been a recipient of a Secondary Transition Experience Program (STEP) Grant for well over the past two decades. Funded through the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services, STEP is a work experience program that helps students with disabilities prepare to transition to employment and community participation during and after high school.

Students learn to become productive, self-sufficient adults through a variety of STEP experiences. These experiences:

- Assist students in developing desirable work habits and realistic career goals;
- Provide opportunities for students to explore careers;
- Offer meaningful work experiences through on-the-job placement; and
- Encourage students to develop the social and personal skills needed to maintain successful employment.

In STEP work-based learning experiences include in-school and work site training options, including internships, with the goal of having an employer paid job in an integrated setting in the community.

The current grant, submitted June 13, 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year is for the amount of \$67,474 and is distributed on a quarterly basis.