

TRANSITION PLANNING



SEPAC PRESENTATION

February 2, 2021

Introductions

- Abby Hanscom
 - Director of Student Services
- Lynne Medsker
 - WHS Guidance Department Head
- Robin Fabiano
 - WHS Student Services Department Head
- Jessica Pugliesi
 - Transition Specialist, BCBA

SEPAC Members

We know:

- Lots of people in the room with different experiences
- Things will change!
- No crystal ball
- Transition is “new” to Massachusetts

Guidance Services at Westwood HS

6 Guidance Counselors

- Work with students over course of four years
- Provide students with academic and counseling support
- Best known for our work with post-secondary planning
 - Seminars
 - Individual Meetings

Westwood High School

1001 students at WHS

- 96% of graduates continue their education
 - 92% 4-year colleges
 - 4% 2-year colleges
- 4% of students choose other options, including
 - Prep School/PG Year
 - Military
 - Full-time employment or career education
 - Gap Year/Internship

Guidance Seminars

Seminars scheduled each of the four years:

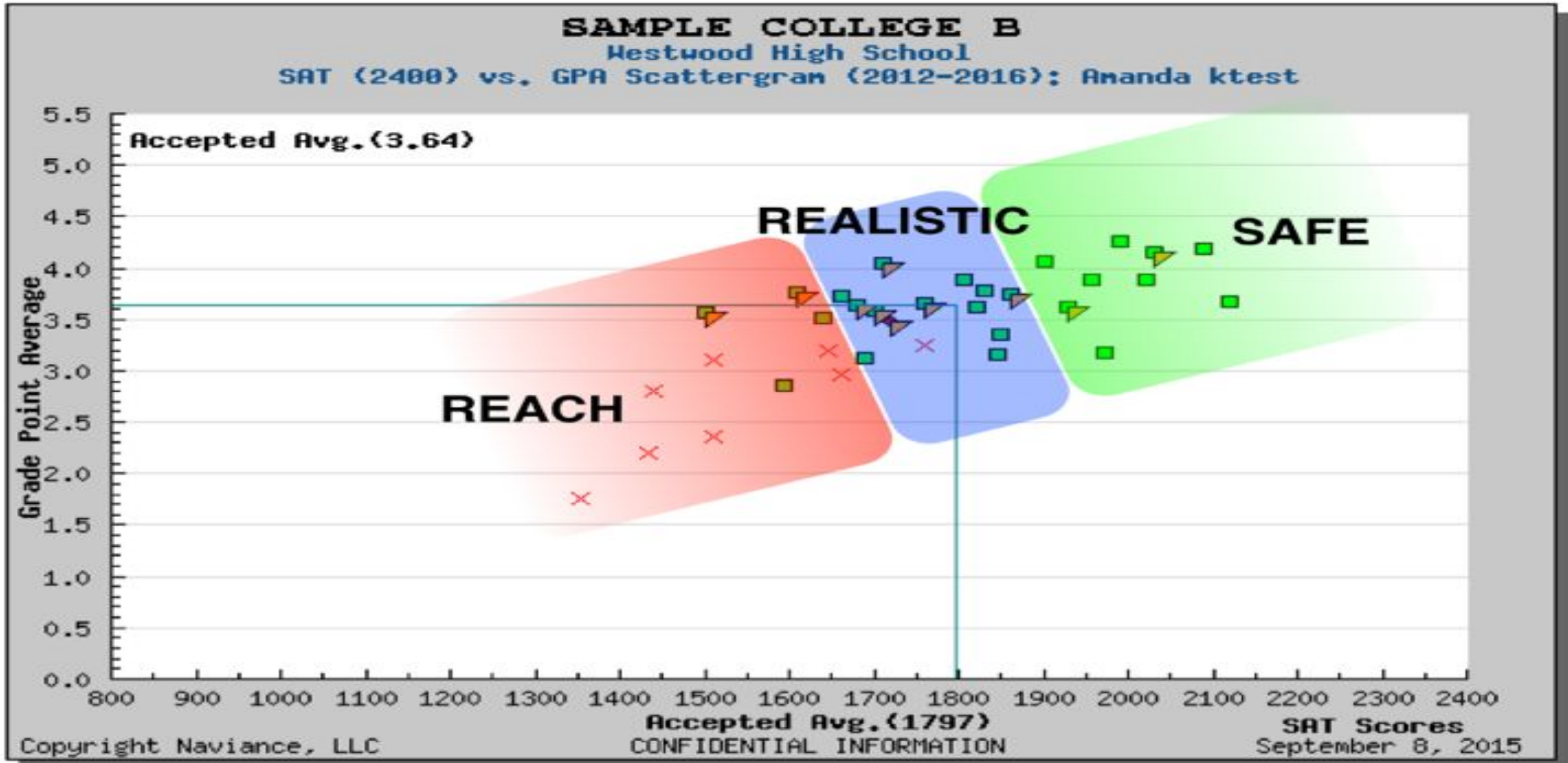
- Freshman Seminars - Transition to the High School
- Sophomore Seminars - Career Exploration
- Junior Seminars - College Search Process
- Senior Seminars - College Application Process



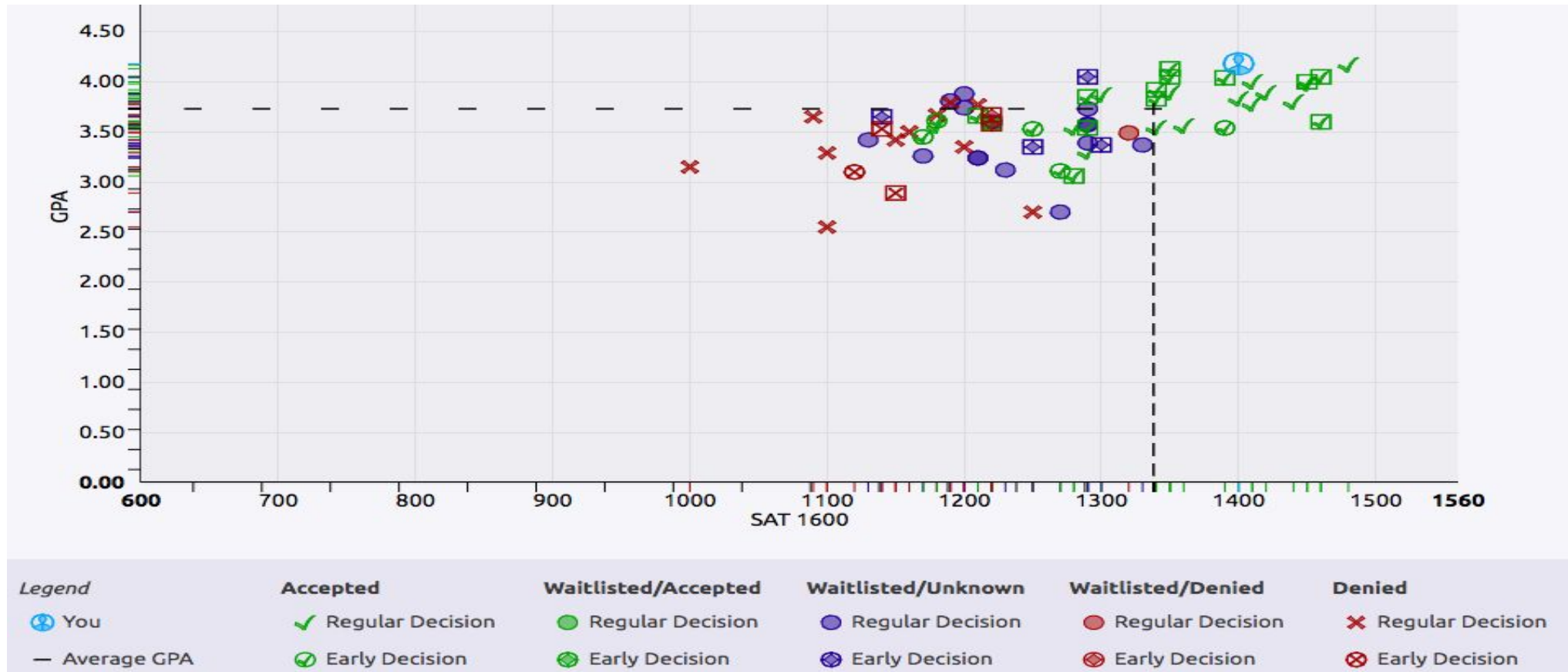
Naviance Family Connection is a comprehensive, web-based planning tool that assists Westwood students in managing the academic, career and college aspects of high school.

- Sophomore seminar for career interest inventory
- Junior seminar for college search
- Senior seminar for college applications

Naviance Scattergrams



Sample Scattergram



Individual Meetings

Individual meetings in addition to seminars:

- **Freshmen** - introductory meeting, extracurricular activities, course selection
- **Sophomore** - course selection, career planning results, practice standardized testing
- **Junior** - course selection, standardized testing options, college planning
- **Senior** - completing applications, scholarships, financing college education

Additional Counseling Supports

In addition to guidance counselors students may meet with:

- Social Worker
- Westwood Youth & Family Services
 - Office in the high school
- School psychologist

[Interface](#)

Guidance Counselor Role with IEPs

- Attend annual Team Meetings
 - Included in transition planning discussion
- Provide guidance on college search process:
 - Monitor progress toward graduation
 - Standardized testing (SAT/ACT) accommodations
 - Applications/admission requirements
 - Accommodations/support at the college level
 - Needs vary by student

IEP ends at graduation

- Student's choice to disclose IEP to colleges during the application process
- Accommodations are available at the college level, not in the form of an IEP
 - College will work with student to create the accommodations plan
 - Usually done through Office of Disability Support Services
- Other Important Timelines:
 - Age 14 - students begin attending IEP meetings
 - Age 17 - Notice of Age of Majority
 - Age of 18 - Decision Making election
 - Age of 18 - Adult agency referral
 - Age of 22 - services end on student's birthday, not end of school year
 - Services can also end prior to 22 when the student has met their Transition goals

Learning Centers

- 5 Learning Centers
 - Learning Center is built into student's schedule
 - Student can attend part-time or full-time
- Special Education Courses
 - Reading
 - Writing
 - Biology Concepts
 - Tools for Academic Success
 - Small group ELA/Math classes

Specialized Programs

- Flex Program
 - Students who require academic and therapeutic support
- Extended Learning Center/Communication Connections LC
 - Includes academic courses such as math, science, English
- WABA, Westwood Applied Behavioral Analysis

Defining Secondary Transition

A coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is designed to be within a **results-oriented process**, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability **to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities**, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.

-- IDEA 2004: 34 CFR 300.43, Transition Services

Transition Planning Form

- School districts must use the Transition Planning Form (TPF) for secondary transition planning with all students with IEPs who are 14 - 22 years of age, or younger if appropriate
- The TPF is a mandated form and must be maintained with the IEP in the student's file. However, it is not part of the IEP and need not be attached to the IEP

Transition Planning Form

- Flexible brainstorming tool Guides and documents the Team's Transition planning discussion.
- Informs IEP development
- Provides an action plan to be implemented by student, family, community members, whole school, adult agencies, etc.
- A state-mandated form that must be maintained with the IEP but is not part of the IEP.
- Nothing on the TPF is mandated to occur.

Transition Planning Form

- Consider the student's strengths, preferences and areas of interest
- Action plan that will be needed to assist the student to develop skills necessary to achieve their post-secondary goals.
- MCAS planning does impact our decisions/HS schedules

Transition Planning Form

- Majority of students have a goal of continuing their education in a college setting. [sample blank TPF](#)
- A smaller number of students, along with their TEAM, agree to defer their diploma and continue their special education eligibility and work on a more individualized plan.
- A small number of students, due to the extent of their disability remain eligible for special education until the age of 22 and then transition to an adult service provider.

Sample TFPs

Sample #1

Sample #2

Sample #3

Transition Program

- Students, 18-22, who have completed their high school experience, and who need to continue to focus on building academic/vocational and/or daily living skills.
- The students in this program are active participants in their transition from Westwood high school to adult life. Building upon the previously acquired skills from grades 9-12, students continue academic and/or vocational skill development guided by individual transition plans focusing on post-secondary vision and goal areas of instruction, employment, community experiences and adult living.

Transition Program

- Students in this program work on developing and strengthening their functional life skills. These skills include money and time management, community safety, travel training, vocational training, and self-advocacy skills. Students can also enroll for credit in Community College courses to gain exposure to the college environment and begin the transition to college.
- Students in this program may continue receiving services until turning 22 or until they meet requirements for a diploma or accepting a diploma.

Group Instruction

Along with certification or college courses, students participate in the following small group instructional opportunities:

- Self Determination
- Career Awareness
- Sex Ed
- Cooking
- Functional Academics
- Community Based Instruction

Student Services District Website

The screenshot shows the Westwood Public Schools website. At the top left is the logo with a stylized 'W' and the text 'WESTWOOD Public Schools'. To the right are links for 'CALENDAR', 'CONTACT US', and 'PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION', along with a search bar and a 'GO' button. Below this is a navigation menu with links for 'DISTRICT', 'HIGH SCHOOL', 'MIDDLE SCHOOL', 'PRE K-5', 'PROGRAMS', 'EMPLOYMENT', and 'QUICK LINKS'. A dark green bar contains links for 'Superintendent's Office', 'School Committee', 'Information For New Families', and 'Information For Staff'. The main content area features a 'District' sidebar with a list of services including 'Superintendent's Office', 'Student Services', 'Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures', 'Child Study Teams (CST)', 'Community Partners', 'District Coordinators for State and Federal Laws', 'District Program Guide', 'ELL', 'Guidance', 'Health Services', 'Homeless Education', and 'INTERFACE Referral Service'. The main content is titled 'Transition' and includes a paragraph about transition services for students with special needs, followed by a section 'Here are some helpful resources regarding Transition:' with three links: 'Massachusetts Transition Timeline', 'Massachusetts Student-Driven Secondary Transition Model', and 'The Secondary Transition Planning Process'. Social media share icons for email, Facebook, and Twitter are visible in the top right of the content area.

WESTWOOD Public Schools

CALENDAR | CONTACT US | PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION

SEARCH GO

DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE K-5 PROGRAMS EMPLOYMENT QUICK LINKS

Superintendent's Office | School Committee | Information For New Families | Information For Staff

District

Superintendent's Office
Curriculum and Instruction

Student Services
Anti-Bullying Policy & Procedures
Child Study Teams (CST)
Community Partners
District Coordinators for State and Federal Laws
District Program Guide
ELL
Guidance
Health Services
Homeless Education
INTERFACE Referral Service

Transition

SHARE [Email] [Facebook] [Twitter]

Transition services are available for students with special needs, ages 14-22 in the District. Please contact your school's Department Head for more information.

Here are some helpful resources regarding Transition:

- [Massachusetts Transition Timeline](#)
- [Massachusetts Student-Driven Secondary Transition Model](#)
- [The Secondary Transition Planning Process](#)

If you have questions...

- Please contact your IEP liaison
- Please contact Lynne Medsker (x3138) or Robin Fabiano (x3137)