Secondary school environments can be challenging for students with ASD

- **Transitions**
  - Require multiple changes
  - Predictable and yet still unpredictable

- **Sights and sounds of hallways**
  - Noise and commotion can be overwhelming
  - After navigating the hallways, students are often stressed and unsettled

- **Students with ASD often have difficulty:**
  - Picking out important information from the environment
  - Understanding what they are supposed to do

- **Structure is Key!**
  - Make information accessible
    - Spell out where homework goes and where to get materials for the day
  - Provide structure
    - Make task expectations clear
  - Create a predictable classroom

- **Priming**
  - What is priming?
    - Priming is exposure to academic course material or tasks before instruction
  - Why should you use this strategy?
    - It gives students the chance to become familiar with the material or skills, and increases the likelihood they will learn and use key concepts
  - Priming is most effective when it is built into the student’s daily routine

- **Academic Modifications**
  - What are academic modifications?
    - When the content or format of assignments are adapted to meet the student's specific needs
  - Examples:
    - Read directions out loud
    - Extended time on assignments
  - IEP at a glance/cheat sheet can be useful to communicate academic modifications
Visual Supports

‣ What are visual supports?
  • Visual supports are any tool presented visually that supports an individual as he or she moves through the day.

‣ Visual supports might include:
  • Pictures
  • Written words
  • Objects within the environment
  • Visual boundaries
  • Schedules
  • Maps
  • Labels
  • Organization systems
  • Timelines
  • Scripts

Reinforcement

‣ What is reinforcement?
  • Reinforcement rewards students for behaving in ways that are productive and support their continued growth.

‣ Examples of reinforcement:
  • Verbal praise
  • Computer time
  • Homework pass

Remember: A teenager with ASD may need to be reinforced for things that others do not need to be reinforced.

Home Base

‣ What is home base?
  • Home base is a designated place where students with ASD can go to regain control during times of stress.

Where can you turn?

‣ Three primary supports can enhance your efforts when working with students with ASD:
  • The Individualized Education Program (IEP)
  • Special Education teachers
  • Paraprofessionals

‣ If you feel your student needs supports…
  • Identify your school’s key contact for beginning process of acquiring additional supports.