

Weiss, M. P., Hutchins, B. C., & Meece, J. L. (in press). The postsecondary educational plans and preparatory activities of rural youth with and without disabilities. *Career Development for Exceptional Individuals*.

A national sample of students with disabilities and their nondisabled peers in rural high schools responded to a survey about their postsecondary plans and how they were preparing for them. The study included 3318 11th- and 12th-grade students from 73 randomly selected schools. Findings indicate that 78.5% of students with disabilities and 90.7% of their nondisabled peers plan to continue their education after high school. Only 4.5% of students with disabilities were enrolled in a college preparatory program. A greater percentage of students with disabilities participated in career exploration activities such as job mentoring, internships, and cooperative education programs than expected and they found teachers and school staff important sources of information. Implications of these findings are discussed.