

BEAR POWER

March 2025

Monthly Newsletter

MAKE YOUR MISSOURI STATEMENT™



20 Powerful Strategies

Prepare Your Child for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

Make sure your child is a regular attendee at an over-night, sleep-away camp.	Have your child become comfortable with electronic communication, including email and attachments	Empower your child to manage a schedule using a cell phone (calendar, timers, reminders, etc)	Strategize a system for independent medication management	Help your child practice talking about disability characteristics, best learning styles, and needs.
Sign up for a drama or improv group	Have your child call and make appointments for doctor/dentist/advisor	Give your child a budget for clothing. Step back from the selection process.	Support choice-making.	Start a savings program for college.
Build expectations for postsecondary life (working, living independently)	Open a bank account with your child. Give your child the debit card and train responsible use of money.	Let your child fail, and talk through making a different choice next time.	Help your child become comfortable with down-time & using time constructively	Use public transportation, even if YOU don't live on the bus line.
Encourage moderation strategies around food and money	Fill your life with interest other than the social/sports/activity schedule of your child. (i.e. Get your own life)	Support your child in volunteering for a cause or organization. (Excellent work experience!)	Dignify your child's desires with high expectations.	Use Family Support dollars to pay for inclusive camping experiences and extend that use for post-secondary programs

<https://thinkcollege.net/sites/default/files/files/resources/20PowerfulStrategies.pdf>

Tutoring

Bear POWER tutors provide additional academic support to the students to help them succeed in the classroom. Tutoring sessions are focused on guiding the students through their assignments along with building skills that promote better learning. Sessions are adapted to the unique learning style of each student and may include strategies such as using real-world examples, visual aids, and analogies. Furthermore, some of the methods that the tutors employ to facilitate learning include breaking down complex topics or problems into smaller chunks for better understanding, using illustrations such as graphs and charts, and encouraging practice and repetition. Most importantly, through patience and encouragement, tutors aim to create a positive environment for the students to boost their confidence.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sign up for housing!
- Register for Fall 2025 classes
- April 9th - Reeds Spring Transition Fair
- April 10th - Blue Valley Special Needs Fair
- April 16th - Dinner!
- April 18th - Campus/classes closed
- April 29th - Potter's House 6 pm
- April 29th - Strafford Transition Fair
- Watch for Fountain Day!



ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND INTERNSHIP SEMINAR

Students have been focusing on a variety of topics for this Spring semester. Cohort 5 is learning more about disability rights and advocacy. Also, they are working on a paper in which they have to complete volunteering hours somewhere in the community.

Cohort 6 has transitioned into Money Management topics and skills. We have discussed what banking options there are, vocabulary, how to watch for money wasters, why save, ABLE accounts, and more!

Giving Day

We want to thank those who donated to our Bear POWER Fund and/or Scholarship Fund! We had \$205 donated through the links in emails and \$200 donated from 417 Pros Networking Group! These funds will help students pay for the costs of college, social events, or transportation costs to their internship sites if off campus!



SUPPORT BEAR POWER

Our students benefit from your support to give them opportunities to engage on campus and in the community. If you can help support students with a donation towards scholarships or to the program, please scan the QR code or go to <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1691/foundation/interior.aspx?sid=1691&gid=2&pgid=1053&cid=1991>



FALL 2025

Financial Resource: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/library/faq-plan-to-achieve-self-support>

Financial Resource: ARC of the Ozarks will have a scholarship available in May - watch your emails!

Financial Resource: Make sure you've completed the FAFSA if you have an Intellectual Disability - you could get a Pell Grant!

Financial Resource: If you're eligible for the Pell Grant, you might also be eligible for the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program: <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants-scholarships/access-mo>