



### **What is the CT Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB)?**

As an initiative within the CT Secondary Transition Community of Practice (CoP), a Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB) was created to provide a place for students and youth with disabilities, ages 14 to 26, to have their voices heard by the people who plan for students and support them.

### **What is the purpose of the YAB?**

The YAB serves as a resource to any school district, agency, organization, or provider that serves young people with disabilities. YAB works to improve services and ensure that services and support provided truly meet the needs of youth with disabilities as they transition from district services to adult life. Participation in YAB activities builds personal advocacy and leadership skills, provides a forum for students to network with each other and professionals in the field, and is a great activity for resumes and portfolios.

### **Who are the members of the YAB?**

YAB members include Connecticut students and youth with disabilities ages 14 to 26 years old who have an interest in learning leadership skills and taking on leadership roles throughout the state. The YAB is facilitated and coordinated by the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC) Youth Team.

### **When and where does the YAB meet?**

The YAB meetings are held monthly over Zoom, with potential opportunities in person down the road for social events and advocacy presentations. We also understand that some youth and young adults may not have time to attend live, as members can participate in a variety of ways including review of documents, offering opinions via email or social media, and informing policy and projects as needed.

The YAB members have participated through monthly YAB meetings, training, and workshops, participation on youth panels at the district, State, and National levels, and working with the CPAC Youth Team.

### **How can I get involved?**

Please contact Lois Eldridge at [leldridge@cpacinc.org](mailto:leldridge@cpacinc.org) or call 860-739-3089 for more information. Anyone can refer a student or youth/young adult to the YAB.

To visit us on social media, sign up for our mailing list, and visit our webpage scan the QR code:

