

# INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on your decision to use NEXT S.T.E.P. to help your students become meaningfully engaged in the transition planning process. We who have developed this curriculum have been fortunate to interact with hundreds of teachers throughout the country who have helped us to develop and refine it. As part of this process, teachers have provided us with a wealth of evaluative information about NEXT S.T.E.P., helping us to understand how to use it effectively and how to avoid common pitfalls. We are extremely happy to pass their insights on to you in this user's guide, which we have appropriately titled "NEXT S.T.E.P. Teachers Talking to Teachers."

You will notice that this guide has three major sections:

- Basic Considerations
- Student Issues and Concerns
- Making Lessons Work Well

Within each section, you will find several specific topics that the teachers identified for us. With the exception of a few introductory comments for each topic, *the entire text consists of quotations from NEXT S.T.E.P. teachers.* We believe that their words are more powerful than our synthesis of their thoughts would be, so we have simply organized the material into themes and provided you with illustrations to make the reading more enjoyable.

There is no right or wrong way to use this guide. You may want to read it from cover to cover to learn as much as possible before beginning NEXT S.T.E.P. You may prefer to use it only when you have questions about some aspect of the curriculum. Do whatever works best for you.