Creating a Summer Goals Map

Background: This idea comes from Emily McDevitt and Jane Audette, school social workers who are co-facilitating a RENEW intervention.

The student has had great success with mapping and with the end-of-the-year stresses and distractions, has had difficulty embracing the transition to teaming. Recognizing that effective teaming was not going to be possible this close to the end of the year, we decided to build on the student’s success with mapping to try something a little “less traditional”. Given that summer is upon us, our student was really struggling to remain engaged as the year was coming to an end, and in order to keep him invested we adapted our path with him. Rather than pushing to get a team together before summer, we chose to hone in on the goals he had identified in early May, as well as the next steps map he had created. We decided to finish with a “summer map”. The Summer Map is being used as a way to identify his plans/goals for summer. In essence, we created an Essential Next Steps map, but kept it focused just on the summer. What seemed to work was 1) this was familiar and engaging for the student and 2) it was time limited, specific and focused. We focused on three very specific goals and identified what was doable during the weeks of summer. We also feel this map will serve as a starting point with picking up RENEW in the fall; we will have a natural place to start.

Steps to creating a ESSENTIAL NEXT STEPS Summer Map:

This would be appropriate to use with a student that has completed a GOALS map, but will not have time to move to teaming before the end of the school year.

1) Move to Next Steps Map, but ask student to pick three goals they could work on for the summer. They may need a little help to think through which goals are workable in the summer without a team. Map these three goals using the Next Steps procedures.

2) Next move to the Essential Next Steps for Summer Map. The following guidance may be helpful with the process.
   - Draw a pictograph that refers to each of the three goals
   - For each of the pictures (goals) identify which next steps could be pursued in the summer to support that goal. Suggestion would be focus on those next steps that can be met without a great deal of support, or with support of resources that will be available to the student throughout the summer.

Emily and Jane are sharing their student’s map. He had completed the Goals and Next Steps before we had the idea to do a Summer Essential Next Steps. Therefore, his Summer map includes basketball which was not on his Next Steps map. See below.
Sample:

GOALS

1. I want a job.*
2. I'm going to graduate with *3.3 GPA
3. Go to College (option)
4. Learn about Apprenticeship opportunities
5. Play Basketball (Senior year = beyond)
6. Put my music on the internet
7. Build Something "MIND BLOWING!"
8. Get my driver's license

NEXT STEPS!

1. Get a job $$$
   - Research
   - Prepare for interviews
   - Interview questions
   - All Com Construction, others
   - Mr. Bishop - support
   - Mr. Kertz - support
2. CPA at graduation of 3.3
3. Get driver's license
   - Find out what classes there are in
     the summer, if get construction job.
   - Take exam as adult in August.
   - Uncle Charles - bus tickets
Our student got his job between Next Steps and the Summer map! 😊 Therefore, our conversation focused on being successful with his job. He had also been able to enroll in drivers’ ed and this helped him be able to more clearly define a summer plan. He chose basketball as goal #3 as he knew he had opportunities to work on this goal.