



Dream Big shows students with disabilities that they can do many things that their non-disabled peers can do, and they should not limit their career goals. By participating in Dream Big, students will gain the confidence to explore different career paths and the understanding of the steps necessary to successfully live independently as a person with a disability. By participating in Dream Big, students can expect to:

- **Interact with current employees in high demand careers**
- **Visit leading companies to discover the vast array of careers available for them to pursue**
- **Engage in a robust curriculum on adulting with a disability, discussing disability history and pride, self advocacy, independent living and life after high school**
- **Fellowship and interact with like-minded peers**

Scan here to learn more and sign up:



Eligibility Requirements:

- Students need to be in middle or high school
- Have a disability
- Be willing to be engaged and participate





Dream Big Overview

The Dream Big program empowers disabled youth pursuing college or technical education to envision a bold future. It encourages them to aspire beyond limitations, demonstrating that their potential equals that of their non-disabled peers. Through Dream Big, students build confidence, explore diverse careers, and gain insights into the steps needed for independent living with a disability.

There are four components to Dream Big:

Dream Big Career Camp

At the Dream Big Career Camp, participants take part in educational activities focused on inclusion and independent living. Throughout the week, our staff cover topics like disclosure, accommodations, and college choices. Participants also visit leading companies, engaging with corporate leaders and employees through mentoring and hands-on activities, to explore a wide range of career options.

Each camp day consists of two parts: employer presentations and the Dream Big curriculum. During part one, students visit different employers' worksites, where they tour facilities, receive insights into company work and culture, and interact with employees. They also engage in hands-on activities related to the business. The second part of each day is dedicated to the Dream Big curriculum, which prepares students for the future by addressing financial literacy, independent living, post-secondary education applications, job application techniques, success planning, and more.

Dream Big Career Club

To maintain year-round student engagement, each month, Dream Big hosts a group of successful professionals from a different industry. These speakers share stories about their careers and answer questions from students to encourage them on their career journeys. At every opportunity, we feature professionals with disabilities so that students have professional role models. Students who join these events are encouraged to apply for our Dream Big Summer Camp. These **FREE** academic year events are conducted virtually on the Zoom platform.

Dream Big Peer Events

Students will engage with peers, having fun playing games, practicing soft skills, and discussing important disability topics such as self-advocacy, independent living, and goal setting. All the **FREE** academic year events are currently held virtually on the Zoom platform.

Dream Big Parent Roundtable

To keep families informed about transition topics, Dream Big hosts academic year roundtables. Parents come together to share student successes and challenges. Each month features a new topic, presented by former Dream Big parents or community members with relevant expertise. These **FREE** Parent Roundtables are conducted virtually on Zoom.

For more information regarding the Dream Big program and how you can get involved please reach out to Danielle Giuffrida at dgiuffrida@starkloff.org or 314-860-2238.