

Decision Making for Students

Barriers to decision making

- Lack of clarity of decision to be made
- Lack of information
- Lack of clear decision-making structure or model

Allow students to explain their own decision-making framework. They can use a decision they made to help illustrate the framework. For example, a student can do a flowchart or concept map of the problem, or their support, or the way the decision will be made.

Decision Making Steps

1. Identify or frame the decision to be made

- Are there several elements of this?
- Is there more than one decision involved?

2. What information is needed?

3. How can this information be gained?

4. How can this information be summarized?

5. Who can help you process information?

6. How critical are you of the information you receive?

7. What questions emerge during the process?

8. What points of clarification emerge? The “AHA” factor

9. Developing scenarios

- What are the different paths?
- What do they involve? What are the realities?
- What are the pros and cons of each possible scenario?
- What are the outcomes?

10. Evaluating options and making a decision

11. If a student is still having trouble making a decision, there may be some other issues preventing progress. A referral might be helpful in some cases.