### Contents

#### CHAPTER 1
**Introduction to the Role of Families in Secondary Transition**, 1  
*Amy M. Pleet and Donna L. Wandry*  
Key Definitions, 2  
Context of This Publication, 2  
The Outcomes Accountability Movement, 3  
The Changing Role of Parents as Partners, 10  
A Brief History of Transition Planning and the Parents’ Role, 12  
Conceptual Framework, 16  
Charge to the Reader, 17

#### CHAPTER 2
**Changing Demographics**, 21  
*Vicki A. McGinley*  
Family Structures, 22  
Challenges Facing Diverse Families During Transition, 25  
Cultural Reciprocity as a Framework, 27  
Conclusion, 30

#### CHAPTER 3
**Parents as Collaborators: Building Partnerships With School- and Community-Based Providers**, 33  
*Sharon deFur*  
Developing School-Based, Community-Based, and Family Partnerships, 34  
What Is a Partnership?, 34  
Conclusion, 50
CHAPTER 4  Parents as Instructors in Their Youths’ Emergent Independence, 53
  Michael J. Ward
  Benefits of Parents as Instructors, 54
  Supporting Parents in the Transfer of Ownership and Advocacy to the Adolescent, 54
  Challenges in Supporting Parents, 56
  Strategies for Fostering Self-Determination in Daily Living Activities, 57
  Applying the Self-Determination Instructional Partnership to Various Domains, 61
  Self-Advocacy/Self-Disclosure in Higher Education Settings, 69
  Skills Parents Need to Develop, and How Practitioners Can Help, 72

CHAPTER 5  Parents as Evaluators and Decision Makers, 81
  Cherie Takemoto and Cathy Healy
  Parents as Evaluators and Decision Makers in Their Child’s Education Program, 82
  Parents as Evaluators and Decision Makers at the System Level, 90
  Conclusion, 95

CHAPTER 6  Parents as Peer Mentors, 101
  Suzanne Ripley
  Defining “Peer Mentors”, 102
  Benefits of Parents as Peer Mentors, 102
  Considerations in Supporting Parents in Peer Mentor Roles, 104
  Mentor Networks and Models, 106
  Methods to Engage Parents as Peer Mentors, 110
  Conclusion, 116

CHAPTER 7  Parents as Systems Change Agents, 119
  Mary E. Morningstar
  Legal Requirements for Parent Participation, 120
  What Is a Systems Change Agent?, 120
  Systems Change for Families From Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds, 122
  Systems Change Agents During Transition, 122
  Challenges Parents Face as Systems Change Agents, 124
  Strategies Supporting Systems Change Agents During Transition, 126
  Conclusion, 135
CHAPTER 8  Strategic Engagement for Parent Partnerships, 141
Donna L. Wandry and Amy M. Pleet
Use of Evaluative Tools in This Book, 142
Making Parent Partnerships a Priority, 142
Tools for Strategically Building Parent Partnerships, 148
Final Words, 149

APPENDIX A  Parent Transition Information Needs Survey, 151
APPENDIX B  Degree of Involvement Scale, 152
APPENDIX C  Parent Engagement Strategic Planning Guide, 153