One of the most powerful ways to help students succeed is to actively involve them in their educational experience. At Falcon Middle School, students who are in special education are involved in their services through Personal Learning Profiles. These profiles encourage students to act as their own advocates and understand their services and learning needs. In addition, the project aligns with goals of the Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).

Students develop these profiles over several months in collaboration with their special education teachers and parents. PowerPoint presentations of approximately 20 slides are created that highlight their own personal learning profiles, and describe their strengths, areas of need, how they best learn, and extracurricular activities. Parents contribute to the project by sending photos that can be used.

Upon completion, students present their projects during their transition IEP meetings. A rubric is used in order to assess how well rounded the presentation is. From the evaluation, important information is also gained for teachers in regards to how to assist with technology and oral presentation skills.

This practice helps students grow by reinforcing skills necessary in our current world, as well as emphasizing self-determination for the students. Students use technology to create and share their presentations, using literacy skills to present their information, and self-advocating by presenting information on themselves.