



The Messenger

Special Education Newsletter for Parents

Partners for Success
Resource Center
A Resource for Families
and Professionals



Important IDEA Changes

The U.S. Department of Education has released changes to regulations governing the IDEA that affect rules regarding parental consent, non attorney representation, and compliance requirements.

The first and most substantial change was published on Dec. 1 in the *Federal Register*. Parents now have the right to revoke their consent for their children receiving special education. Parents must make the request in writing and should weigh very carefully their decision before going forward. Revocation of consent means that students who are removed from special education are to be treated like general education students in all ways including losing protections given to students in special education who have discipline problems related to their disabilities. The student will no longer receive, special education services or accommodations for their disability. Parents are not prevented from later requesting re-entry and possible re-evaluation in special education however the timelines for evaluation and implementation will apply. Removal and re-entry into special education is time consuming and may result in a costly delay of individualized education for your child.

Another change will allow state law to determine whether non-lawyers can represent parents in due-process hearings. Maryland parents may only be represented by a qualified attorney or they may choose to represent themselves. To date, the state has not made a change to that regulation. A third change states that if a school district determines it is out of compliance with any of the provisions of IDEA, the district has one year from the time the problem is noted to correct it. In the past there was no timeline for corrections.

Cindy Senseney
Parent Liaison

Support Groups

Families of Children with Autism Support (FOCAS) - Monthly meetings held third Thursdays 410-857-1596.

Chesapeake Down Syndrome Support Group— Support and advocacy 410-321-5434.

Autism Society of America -Baltimore Chesapeake Chapter - Parent support and advocacy 410-655-7933.

Therapeutic Riding Program—410-848-3029 or www.trp4h.org

CHANGE, Inc.— Respite care information and funding, rolling access grants, camp info, support groups 410-876-2179.

Free Mealers—Gluten Free-Casein Free diet support group. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month, 7-9 PM at St. James' Episcopal Church, 1307 N. Main Street, Mt. Airy MD. Contact Anna Letaw at 410-795-7950.

Pathfinders for Autism— Contact Rebecca Rienzi, rrienzi@pathfindersforautism.org or call 410-769-8221.



Bookmarks

When Your Child Has LD: Survival Guide for Parents

By Gary Fisher and Rhoda Cummings

This is a reassuring guide where you can find the answers to your questions, encouragement and advice for seeing your child through the school years ahead. The authors use everyday language to explain a variety of topics relating to Learning differences. Some areas addressed are the five types of Learning disabilities, causes and early signs, social and emotional health, your rights as a parent and how to get help in the school and beyond.

Workshops



January 12-16—Orton-Gillingham 30-Hour Comprehensive Training, Baltimore, Maryland online registration at www.OrtonGillingham.com

January 13—Functional Behavior Assessment—Participants will learn how to conduct a functional behavior assessment AND how to use that information to design a positive behavior support plan! Parents welcome.

Sponsored by MCIE. To register go to www.mcie.org.

January 27, 2009—Accommodations and Modifications—What are they and how they can be applied. Plus...what to look for in your IEP. Sponsored by Partners for Success Resource Center 6:30 pm—8:30 pm To register call 410-751-3955

February 11, 2009—Individualized Education - Learn the basics of the Special Education Process and The IEP. To be held in the Eldersburg area. —6:00—8:30 pm. Call Partners of Success Center at 410-751-3955 to register.

February 26, 2009—“Moving On” The Preschool Transition— A workshop for parents of children in the Infants and Toddlers Program. This workshop will explore the continuum of services available to 3-5 year olds and how to prepare your toddler for the preschool experience. 6:00 -8:00 pm Eldersburg area. Call 410-876-4437 x278 to register.



Online Helps

www.directionservice.org/cadre/understanding_pos.cfm—Great negotiating tips and techniques, take a look at this brief presentation on “positions “versus “interests” from CADRE.

www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/earlyinterv/complaint_investigation/CIDP_Branch—Great video explaining the specifics of dispute resolution avenues.

www.jirs.org—Project reboot accepts computer hardware and software donations. Volunteers refurbish and then hardware with current operating system software is donated at very low cost to non-profit, educational, religion-based, and charitable organizations.

SECAC AWARDS

The Carroll County Public School System’s Special Education Citizen’s Advisory Council (SECAC) is currently accepting nominations for teachers, speech pathologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, other service providers, administrators, family members, community members, and students who have truly gone to extraordinary efforts to contribute in a compassionate and caring way to the growth, happiness, and general well-being of our children.

SECAC can accept nominations made by students, parents, or guardians for an individual or group, but there can only be one nomination per family. If nominating a group, the names of all the members of the group should be provided. Nominators should describe a specific action, approach, or attitude that contributed to their child’s progress. While nominations may need to be edited for purposes of the awards ceremony, all nominees will receive a complete copy of the original version.

An electronic version of the nomination form is available on the CCPS website at www.carrollk12.org under Resources. Nomination forms may be sent to OSPEDS@k12.carr.org. Any questions can be directed to Rachel Roark Morey at RRMadvocate@comcast.net or 410-967-7943 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Monday through Friday. The nomination deadline is February 15, 2009. In order to notify all parties in a timely fashion, late nominations will not be accepted.

The awards ceremony will be held on April 7, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at the Carroll County Career and Technology Center in Westminster.