



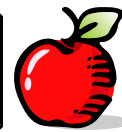
NEXT STEPS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2008

Dear Parent Advisors,

Thank you to so many of you for responding to our request for experienced PA's to help other parents during our upcoming IEP Clinics. Below you will see what we have scheduled so far and a tentative agenda of where we will go next. I really appreciate your willingness to help others and will ask for your help again when you read below! I wish you all a good start to your children's school year and hope it continues to flow smoothly for the rest of the year.

~ Jane



*Here are a couple of ideas of how to get involved and help others:
Participate in or spread the word about the IEP Clinic and the Mock PPT!*

IEP CLINIC UPDATE

The IEP Clinic was designed for two purposes. One was to help increase the knowledge of parents on the content of the IEP. The second, but equally important purpose, was to help Next STEPs Parent Advisors connect with families in their local communities and improve their skills as PAs.

In order to accomplish these two goals, we planned two-hour IEP Clinics in Windham and Waterbury, with the possibility of more clinics to be scheduled in Enfield, Bridgeport, Killingly, Norwich and Danbury. During the clinics PAs will meet for one hour with individual families. To begin, PAs will go over the IEP in general. Next, PAs and families will review the child's Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance, making sure everything is captured on the IEP. Once that information has been thoroughly covered, the PAs will work with the family to ensure that all areas of concern have been addressed, either in the goals or an appropriate accommodation.

Windham – September 25th **Waterbury** – October 6th

THIS IS WHERE I ASK FOR YOUR HELP AGAIN! Please help us recruit parents to use our IEP clinics. If you are in the area, or have friends or family in the Windham or Waterbury area, please tell them about the clinic and let them know we want to help them increase their understanding of their child's IEP. Registration is required so we can plan to meet the needs of all parents who attend. (1-800-445-2722)

Thank you again for your willingness to help!

MOCK PPT MEETING

A Mock PPT Meeting will be held in Milford on Tuesday the 23rd of September. The purpose of this event is to help increase participants' knowledge of how the Planning and Placement Team can plan an appropriate program using the IEP form as a guide. Additionally, participants will gain a greater level of confidence working with others in the PPT meeting.

This event is being sponsored by the Family Alliance of Milford (FAM), a new non-school related parent support group. The program will be facilitated by parent members of PATH and presented by CPAC.

All are welcome, but registration is required. Please RSVP to Reagin Curran at: 203-980-3913 or via email at:

reagicuran@sbcglobal.net

PATH Parent to Parent of CT,
Parents Available to Help, Inc.
A Family Support and Resource Network
1-800-399-PATH (CT only) or 1-203-234-9554
www.pathct.org

Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

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FEATURED RESOURCE: BUREAU BULLETIN!

The Connecticut Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education has created a monthly news bulletin to keep everyone informed of activities related to special education in the state of Connecticut.

The Bureau Bulletin replaces the former Bureau Blog and is available online under special education resources on www.sde.ct.gov.

The State Performance Plan

The Connecticut Department of Education is required to report annually to the United States Department of Education on 20 areas that are being monitored in relation to special education services.

The state must report the current status of these issues statewide and create targets to improve upon the current situation. In its plan, the state must indicate what activities and efforts it will engage in to help improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

For more information on the “State Performance Plan (SPP)” you may view the complete report at www.sde.ct.gov – follow the links through “Special Education” on the home page.

You may also see how your district did on each of the 20 indicators by looking at the “District Annual Performance Reports and Determinations” and clicking on your district’s APR. The state is making determinations of each district based upon its performance on these identified issues. Each district is rated as one of the following: Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance or Needs Intervention.

If you have trouble finding any of this online, please feel free to email me at: jhampton@cpacinc.org and I will send you a link to what you are looking for!

CPAC would like to thank all parent advisors who were able to attend our Annual Friends and Family Summer Picnic at Camp Harkness in Waterford. It was nice to see so many smiling faces all day! This years picnic was a great success and we look forward to planning for next year. Picnic pictures can be viewed on our website!



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