



Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

January 2019 ENews



Connecticut's Resource for Children with Disabilities;
EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING FAMILIES

Parents Role in Special Education Process

Parents are crucial members of the team because they have unique knowledge of their child's strengths and needs. Parents have the right to be involved in meetings that discuss the identification, evaluation, IEP development and the educational placement of their children.

[Read more here>>](#)

A Parents Voice

At the end of the day, we are just people interacting with one another. And, it's no surprise that we're more willing to accommodate someone whom we like, respect, and trust, as opposed to someone we don't. A parent's voice is so much stronger when they have a positive relationship with the school.

[Learn more here>>](#)

Paving the Way

For students with disabilities, there can be a variety of additional concerns, such as working with school staff on creating an appropriate Individualized Education Program (IEP), deciding on the best course of academic study to further a student's postsecondary goals, and addressing any health care needs that may affect a student's success in school.

[Watch video here>>](#)

Parent Teacher Collaborative Conversations

Frequent contacts result in a stronger parent-teacher relationship and a foundation for transforming the traditional conference into a collaboration about meeting student needs.

March 5, 2019

[Person-Centered Planning: The Various Options to Secure Positive Student Outcomes](#)

(Litchfield, CT)

March 16, 2019

[Learn Disability Summit](#)
(Uncasville, CT)

March 29, 2019

[2019 Achievement Through Assistive Technology Conference](#)
(Hartford, CT)

View a full list of upcoming special education related events in Connecticut by visiting: www.cpacinc.org/upcoming-events.

About Us

CPAC is a statewide non-profit organization providing information and support to families in Connecticut who have children, ages birth to 26, with any disability or chronic illness. We

[Read more here>>](#)

How to Build Relationships with Immigrant Families

In looking at how to support the school to home collaboration it is important for school staff to understand their students' cultural backgrounds. Some immigrant families that are new to this country do not understand our educational system and expectations. They may be limited to the language, but also other cultural differences may pose a barrier. In the link below, there are tips for working with ELL families. I also encourage families to use this as a tool in how they work with their child's school as well.

[Read why this matters>>](#)

Parents As School Partners

This article from PACER shares how parents can promote a positive partnership with their child's school team.

[Keys to Success>>](#)

Staff volunteer applications are now open for the 2019 Youth Leadership Forum!

Please consider volunteering to support this amazing program held from July 21 to July 25, 2019. YLF is in need of counselors, co-counselors, a nurse, program assistants, personal care assistants (PCAs), American sign language interpreters, and overnight staff. All applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have graduated high school at least two years prior to apply for a position with YLF. Application deadline is March 24, 2019! Visit www.ctylp.org for more information.

CPAC: The Blog - Jakes Juxtapositions

This is Jake, CPAC's new intern. I am a TBI (traumatic brain injury) survivor, an advocate and a Public Speaker. There was a recent article in the New York Times Opinion section on how "Students learn from people they love". This was a very interesting article, so I thought I put my two cents in this topic as it personally affected my past

believe that parents can be the most effective advocates for their children given the confidence that knowledge and understanding of special education laws can bring.

We need your help! Please consider helping CPAC. [Click here to donate.](#)

Spanish Materials

Many of our fact sheets and resources are available in Spanish. Visit www.cpacinc.org and click on "En Espanol" in the top right corner of the page.



education and as much shaping my future. When it comes to special education or general education, there is no difference on positive, harnessing approaches between students and teachers.

[Read more from Jake here>>](#)

Next Steps is Coming to NEW BRITAIN!

Next STEPS (Support and Training for Educators and Parents) is a free 8 week training series for families, educators, community professionals which is held in the evening. It is designed to help families and professionals be more familiar with special education and be prepared to serve on school, district or state level teams working to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.

Participants will also be more prepared to support other parents one on one. Program runs Mondays starting March 4th, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Contact us at 860-739-3089 or email at jhampton@cpacinc.org for more information <http://www.cpacinc.org/projects-programs/next-steps/>

Upcoming Events

CPAC posts statewide **Upcoming Events** on our website including CPAC workshops and those of other organizations that may interest the families we serve. Please be sure to check back regularly as events are added daily. Additionally, if you have events that you would like to share with families, please send them to cpac@cpacinc.org for consideration. To view Upcoming Events visit www.cpacinc.org.

Educational Term of the Month

Planning and Placement Team (PPT): A group of individuals including the child's parents and school professionals who determine the specific educational needs of the child and develop, review and revise a child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Learn the definition of other educational terms by viewing our [Guide to Educational Terms](#) (in English and Spanish).

Visit CPAC on Social Media!

If you like this e-newsletter you may want to check out our Facebook page and Pinterest boards for more information. Check out CPAC on [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#).



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