

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

This month's topic: Communication

Upcoming Statewide Events

Fall Self-Advocacy Workshops

WI FACETS is sponsoring the following two free workshops.

Location: WI FACETS

600 W. Virginia St., Milwaukee

Registration: Contact Matthew Zellmer, 414.374-4645, ext. 203, or mzellmer@wifacets.org

1. What to Expect in College

Date: September 24, 2014, 6-8pm

Description: Participants will learn differences between colleges, universities & technical schools & discuss which type might be right for them. Local college representatives will discuss how to get accommodations in college and how to apply for financial aid. Youth with disabilities will share their college experiences.

[Register](#)

2. Employment Panel

Date: October 29, 2014, 6-8pm

Description: Representatives from Independence First, the Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Wisconsin PROMISE grant and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will lead a panel discussion on career options, employment rights & job resources for people with disabilities.

[Register](#)

Technology Conference for Special Education 2014

Description: The conference will offer over 30 sessions on educational, instructional and assistive technology for beginning, intermediate and advanced level learners. Participants have the opportunity to attend sessions and visit the Exhibit Hall to learn more about technology services and products.

Date: October 8-9, 2014

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Ctr, Wisconsin Dells, WI

[Registration and Information Link](#)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IMPACT

Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes

By Wendy Overturf

"Nothing changes if nothing changes, and if we keep doing what we always have done, we will keep getting what we have always gotten." Those were the sentiments shared by parents at their son's IEP meeting last spring. The child was just starting his last quarter of 6th grade and the teachers were sharing at the IEP meeting about how their son was close to failing some of his classes because he had incomplete assignments. This is the same story that these parents had been hearing for years. They were becoming frustrated.

Some of the school staff initially stated that middle school students need to learn to take more responsibility for keeping track of their assignments. The parents agreed that in theory that might be true, but unless some changes were made, their son was just going to continue along the same path. Something had to change to help with the missing assignments. They were not willing to just continue to do what they had done for the past several years and put all the responsibility on their

son as that was not working. They said that was impossible to help their son complete his work when his assignments were not in his planner. The parents insisted that they had to have that information in order to help their son.

The parents were aware of different state-wide initiatives and had heard about how some of the strategies of PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) might help. They suggested that "check-in-check-out" might be an option. Academic check-in and check-out (CICO) is a support that is used to help students who have problems with organization and is useful with students in both general and special education. A student checks in with a specific adult at the start of the school day and the student checks out with an adult at the end of the day to make sure assignments are in the planner and needed materials in the backpack. The goal is to work with the student so that he can learn and use organizational skills so he can manage these tasks without adult support. CICO can also foster

increased communication and collaboration between the school staff and family.

After some discussion, the IEP team reached consensus to give it a try and put it in the IEP. The parents were happy to report that the year finished on a much better note. With the changes put in place, assignments were now being turned in.

An added plus was that the parents had a much more effective communication system with the school. As the new school year begins, the parents are hopeful that these supports will continue to be successful and hope that eventually some of these more intensive supports can be faded. But for now, this is what he needs!

[Additional information on check-in-check-out](#)



Upcoming Statewide Events

Bridges to Adulthood for Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

This presentation will provide an overview of effective transition programming, at any age, with the ultimate goal being a life of dignity, competence and quality.
Date: October 7, 2014

Location: Green Bay
[Information and Registration Link](#)

Statewide Transition Academy

The Academy is the single-best opportunity for transition-minded youth, parents, community members, agencies and educators from around the state to immerse themselves in information, strategies and resources related to transition planning to increase successful postsecondary outcomes.
Date: 10/17/14

Location: Wilderness Resort, WI Dells
[Information and Registration Link](#)

Keys to Success Conference Communication, Family Engagement and Partnerships

This no-cost conference will provide resources and information for parents, caregivers, educators and service providers of children with special needs, ages 3 - 21
Date: October 25, 2014

Location: UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI
[Information and Registration Link](#)

The 18th Annual Down Syndrome Awareness Walk & 1st Annual Fun Run

Date: Sunday, September 28, 2014 at 7:30 am (Run) and 12:15 pm (Walk)

Location: Milwaukee, County Zoo, Maple Grove & Oak Grove Picnic Areas

Pre-Registration will be accepted until 8 am (CST) Saturday, September 27, 2014.

[Information and Registration Link](#)

RESEARCH TO READ

Parental Involvement in Children's Education: Considerations for School Counselors Working with Latino Immigrant Families

Gonzalez, Laura M., et al. *Professional School Counseling* 16.3 (2013): 185-193.

[Article Link](#)

Abstract: The Hoover-Dempsey et al. (2005) model of parents' involvement in their children's schools has recently been applied to Latino immigrant families. This article reviews that literature and then describes culturally appropriate strategies for school counselors to work with this population, focusing on (a) teacher and counselor invitations to the family, (b) parent or partnership-focused role construction, and (c) flexible formats for involvement that respect families with limited

time. The article includes a sample Latino Family Night program.



Bullying Perpetration and Victimization in Special Education: A Review of the Literature

Rose, Chad A., Lisa E. Monda-Amaya, and Dorothy L. Espelage. *Remedial and Special Education* (2010).

[Article Link](#)

Abstract: Bullying perpetration and victimization have become pervasive problems in American schools. Recent research suggests a causal association between prolonged periods of

victimization and overt acts of school violence. These findings are germane to students with disabilities in light of evidence suggesting these students are victimized more often than typically developing peers. The purpose of this review is to provide special educators with an overview of definitions and issues related to bullying perpetration and victimization and to synthesize research on this topic as it pertains to students with disabilities by disability type, personal characteristics, and educational placement. It was concluded that additional research is needed on prevalence and types of bullying, factors related to perpetration or victimization, and appropriate school-based interventions for special needs populations.

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP:



Disproportionality Technical Assistance
NETWORK

The Wisconsin Culturally Responsive Education for All: Training and Enhancement (CREATE) initiative has been renamed. During 2013, the CREATE grant initiative underwent reconfiguration to become the Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network, "the Network".

The Disproportionality Technical Assistance Network, "the Network," is a multi-tiered system of compliance activities and

improvement supports to address racial disproportionality in special education. The Network is funded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, Part B. The Network is a Wisconsin collaboration among the Department of Public Instruction, cooperative education service agencies (CESAs), local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and community stakeholders. The Network offers customized technical

assistance and web resources for districts identified as having disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups.

More information about the Network is available on their website, www.thenetworkwi.com. The website also includes a calendar of upcoming events as well as contact information for various individuals in the Network.

ONLINE RESOURCES COMMUNICATION



Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0 Collaborative Strategies to Advance Student Learning

A booklet developed by the National Education Association. Family-School-Community Partnerships 2.0 outlines ten strategies that are the foundation for creating effective partnerships, like building one-to-one relationships between families and teachers that are linked to learning.

[Booklet pdf](#)

Parent-Teacher Conference Tip Sheets for Principals, Teachers, and Parents

Developed by the Harvard Family Research Project, this booklet highlights tips for parents and professionals that will help foster more effective parent-teacher conferences.

[Conference Tip Sheet](#)

Tips for Parents: Parent -Teacher Conferences

This website has information about effective parent-teacher conferences. Information is available in both Spanish and English.

www.colorincolorado.org

Bridging Home-School Communications: Helping Parents Begin Conversations with Teachers

This website has a variety of suggestions to assist parents in developing more effective ways to communicate with teachers.

[Special Education Advisor Website](#)

Preventing and Resolving Parent-Teacher Differences

This website has suggestions for both parents and professionals on how to minimize and resolve conflicts.

[KidSource Website](#)

Building Parent-Teacher Relationships

This website provides strategies that have been effective in improving parent-teacher communications.

[Reading Rockets Website](#)

Parent-Teacher Talk

On this website are examples of actual conversations parents can have with teachers regarding concerns parents may have about their child.

[Good Housekeeping Website](#)

National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

This website outlines the standards developed by the National PTA for effective family-school partnerships. The website also has links to other resources related to building these partnerships.

[National PTA Website](#)

Upcoming Statewide Events

Special Education Conference

Will offer over 20 that will appeal to regular and special educators working with students with disabilities! Session content will focus on topics like EBD, LD, autism, Assistive Technology, transition, self-directed IEPs, classroom management, facilitating IEP team meetings, functional behavioral assessments, collaborating with parents, common core standards and more!

Date: November 12-13, 2014

Location: Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

[Registration and Information Link](#)

Children Come First Conference

The 25th annual Children Come First Conference is for those caring for, working with or interested in the well-being of children and youth with social, emotional or behavioral challenges.

The conference theme this year is "Fostering Resilience." Sponsored by WI Family Ties-

Date: November 10-11, 2014

Location: Glacier Canyon Lodge, WI Dells

[Registration and Information Link](#)

Self-Determination Conference

The Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference works to empower people with disabilities in Wisconsin to have more control over their lives. The conference is for persons with disabilities, their families and professionals who support them.

Date: November 10-11, 2014

Location: Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

[Registration and Information Link](#)

Across the Lifespan Conference

This conference offers opportunities to learn about special education, transition, higher education, assistive technology and employment. The theme is "Bringing the Best Together".

Date: November 13-14, 2014

Location: Glacier Canyon Lodge, WI Dells

[Registration and Information Link](#)

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE)

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment is a leadership development opportunity for youth with disabilities and their parents to learn about the transition process.

Milwaukee: Series Begins 12/6/14

[Flyer and Registration Link](#)

WI FACETS Phone Workshops



Registration for all phone workshops:
Contact Sandra McFarland at 877-374-0511, smcfarland@wifacets.org
or online: www.wifacets.org

WSEMS– Dispute Resolution Options
Date: 9/22/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenters: Jan Serak and Nissan Bar-Lev

Red Flags of a Struggling Reader
Date: 9/24/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Cheryl Ward

Introducción a la Educación Especial
Date: 9/26/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Martha Lechuga, WI FACETS

Response to Intervention (RtI)
Date: 10/1/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Julia Hartwig, DPI

Understanding Decision Making Groups
Date: 10/2/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

Statewide Advocacy Opportunities for Parents
Date: 10/8/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Beth Swedeen, BPDD Executive Director

Bullying
Date: 10/9/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Charlotte Price, Retired Co-Director, WI FACETS

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Part 1
Date: 10/14/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: WI FACETS Staff

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Part 2
Date: 10/16/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: WI FACETS Staff

Apoys e Intervenciones para Obtener una Conducta Positiva
Date: 10/17/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Martha Lechuga, WI FACETS

School Discipline - Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
Date: 10/22/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Steve Furnan, DPI

Understanding Data When Serving on Groups
Date: 10/23/2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS



HOME-BASED INTERVENTIONS



Reading and Literacy

Sharing Wordless Picture Books

Sharing wordless books is a terrific way to build important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension and an increased awareness of how stories are structured. Here are some tips for sharing wordless picture books with a child.

- Let your child create their own story.
- Look at the title and cover. Make predictions about what the story is about.
- Review the pictures and talk about what you see.
- Tell the story the way you see it with different voices, sound effects, adding interesting words.
- As your child tells the story, ask questions like who, when, where, and why.

[More Information](#)



Math

Card Smarts: How many numbers can we make?

Card games can help children develop strategies for using numbers in different combinations using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This activity is ideal for children in 3rd through 5th grade.

You will need number cards, pencil, and paper.

- Each player is given a piece of paper and a pencil.
- Using the cards from 1 to 9 only, deal four cards out with the numbers facing up.
- Using all four cards and a choice of any combination of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, have each player see how many different numbers a person can get. Set a timer for 5 minutes.
- Players get one point for each answer.
- For example, the cards drawn are 3, 7, 2, and 8. What numbers can be made?

Source: Math.com

WSEMS - Facilitated IEPs
Date: October 27, 2014, 12-1 pm
Presenters: Jan Serak and Nissan Bar-Lev

Communicating with Your Child's School
Date: October 28, 2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

Beyond the Basics: Social Communication Needs
Date: October 30, 2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Daniel Parker, DPI

Resolviendo Desacuerdos a Través de la Mediación
Date: October 31, 2014, 12-1 pm
Presenter: Martha Lechuga, WI FACETS Staff

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Next month's newsletter topic: *Learning Disabilities*

To submit contributions, you may use either the [online form](#) or the attached fillable PDF form for contributing articles, events, and resources. Send the PDF form submissions to woverturf@wifacets.org.

Deadline for submitting contributions to each month's issue is by the **20th of each month at noon**. For time sensitive training advertisements, the information should be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date; ideally a month ahead of time. Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to sources of family involvement/parent leadership resources, advertisements for statewide trainings for parents, youth or parent/educator audiences, information about statewide parent agencies, recent research pertaining to family engagement, and family engagement success articles. Family engagement success or impact stories can be written at an individual or family level, classroom level, school building level, district level, county level, CESA level, etc. Your submittal may not be in the final copy of the upcoming month's newsletter if it was in a previous month's email, the event date has passed, the web link doesn't work, or there is already an article in place. Articles and resources will be saved to be used for later newsletters. We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.

This monthly update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement.

DISCLAIMER: Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training, and Support (WI FACETS), the Department of Public Instruction, the U.S. Department of Education, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NOTE: If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please go to <http://www.servingongroups.org/newsletter-signup> or contact: Wendy Overturf at woverturf@wifacets.org.



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