



A letter from the Newport County Regional Special Education Advisory Committee

Dear Parent(s):

We know how anxious we felt when our children were first referred to the special education system and we hope this brochure will provide resources for this process. As a parent, you are an expert on your child. What you know about your child is a critical element which needs to be included with the information the school system has collected. No picture of your child is complete without your contribution, and no special education plan should be put into effect unless you participate in it and agree to it. You are entering into a parent-professional partnership that will guide the course of your child's school experience. The more you know, the better you can advocate for your child.

The Newport County Regional Special Education Local Advisory Committee is a group of parents and professionals working together to provide advice to the Regional Special Education Department with regard to Special Education Services. We act as an advocacy group for students with disabilities from Middletown, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Little Compton.

Our meetings are open to the public and are held at 6:00pm–8:00pm on the second Monday of the month in September, February and June. The meetings are held at the Regional Office located at Elmhurst School in Portsmouth. Please join us anytime.

Sincerely, NCRSEP Local Advisory Committee



2009 – 2010 SCHEDULE

All meetings are held at the Regional Office at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted

Monday, September 14, 2009

Monday, October 19, 2009 - Workshop #1 Portsmouth Middle School Library - 6:00pm Strategies for Bullying Prevention

Monday, November 9, 2009 -Workshop #2 Portsmouth Middle School Library—6:00pm Be a Partner in Developing Your Child's IEP

Monday, January 11, 2010 - Workshop #3 & 4 Portsmouth Middle School Library - 6:00pm Statewide Parent Survey & The Difference Between Accommodations and Modifications

Monday, February 8, 2010

Monday, March 8, 2010 - Workshop #5 Portsmouth High School Cafeteria - 6:00pm Transition Fair and Access to Community Resources

Monday, April 12, 2010—Workshop #6 Portsmouth Middle School Library—6:00pm Turning Around Negative Behavior

Wednesday, May 26, 2010 Portsmouth Middle School Little Theater - 6:30pm 18th Annual Awards Night

Monday, June 7, 2010

Newport County Regional Special Education Program

1 Frank Coelho Drive Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.3570 Fax: 401.683.3372

The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



The Individuals with Disabilities Act is a federal law which guarantees children with disabilities a right to a free, appropriate public education. The Rhode Island Regulations further outlines specific criteria for identifying the existence of a disabling condition. Special Education is specially designed instruction to help these children succeed in school.

If your child is found eligible for Special Education Services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) must be developed for your child. The IEP is a legal document that must be reviewed annually. This document can also be reviewed at anytime at the request of a parent or school department.

If your child is not eligible for Special Education Services, then you and your school department representatives should meet at another time to discuss other interventions that might be appropriate in order to increase your child's success in School.



Know your child's educational team:

Teachers: _____

Special Educators: _____

Case Manager: _____

Related Service Personnel: _____

Bus Driver: _____

Other: _____

Parent Resources

Local Advisory Committee (LAC) 401.683.3570

Newport County Regional Special Education
401.683.3570 www.ri.net/nptctyregional/

Middletown Public Schools 401.849.2122
<http://www.ri.net/middletown/>

Portsmouth Public Schools 401.683.1650
<http://portsmouthschoolsri.net/>

Tiverton Public Schools 401.624.8475
<http://www.tiverton.ri.gov/>

Little Compton Public Schools 401.635.2351
<http://www.littlecomptonschools.org>

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN)
401.270.0101 www.ripin.org

East Bay Educational Collaborative 401.245.4998
www.ebecri.org

Down Syndrome Society of RI (DSSRI)
401.463.5751 www.dssri.org

RI Autism Society chapter237@autism-society.org

RI Disability Law Center 401.831.3150

The Sherlock Center 401.456.8072

RI Technical Assistance Project www.ritap.org

TechAccess RI www.techaccess-ri.org

Solutions CEDARR 401.461.4351
www.familyserviceri.org/CEDARR.asp

Division of Developmental Disabilities
401.462.3234 www.mhrh.state.ri.us/ddd/

RI Parents Guide to Children's Mental Health
401.432.1036

www.childrensmentalhealthguideri.org

PREPARING FOR AN IEP MEETING

- Know in advance the purpose of the meeting. Is it to review, to develop IEP goals, or to discuss placement?
- Gather and organize records of your child's progress.
- List the information you want to share.
- List concerns that YOU would like addressed at the meeting.
- Review last year's IEP.
- Note questions you may have about the IEP.
- Notify the school if you want specific people at the IEP meeting, or if you are bringing someone other than your spouse.
- Check you child's file at school if you feel there is information you need to be aware of.
- Take notes or ask if the meeting could be taped.
- Include your child at the meeting if appropriate.

WHAT DOES THE IEP INCLUDE?

The IEP describes:

What your child does now (Present Level of Performance)

What your child will be learning to do this year (Goals and Objectives) and how you and your child's teachers will know when and how goals are reached (Evaluation Procedure and Evaluation Criteria)

Ways that your child's learning will be supported (Classroom Modification, Special Supports, Special Services)

A program designed to provide these special supports—type and amount of Special Education Services, where services will take place and who is responsible.



Newport County Regional Special Education Local Advisory Committee

Serving the Communities of
Middletown ~ Tiverton ~ Portsmouth ~ Little
Compton

You are not alone...

For more information about parent support contact the Special Education Office at 683.3570 and ask to speak to a representative from the Local Advisory Committee, or e-mail at lacchair@yahoo.com

