

Family School Partnership:

Building the future together

As part of the State Personnel Development Grant, the *Parent Initiative* offers the following staff development activities at no cost. These activities are being made available to each special education cooperative as regional trainings, and can be provided as stand-alone trainings or in conjunction with other activities being offered by the Cooperative. In addition, each training listed below has a corresponding parent training that can be scheduled on a regional basis upon request. As you are preparing for staff development activities during the summer (2017) and into the next school year, please consider including one or more of the following training activities into your schedule. Please contact Susan Burgan to schedule any of the activities listed below.

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Training Agendas for School Staff

Training 1: Kentucky Parent Guide for Special Education

A 90 minute presentation that is appropriate for both regular and special education staff. It provides discussion of information included in the *Kentucky Parent Guide for Special Education* and information available on the HDI Parent Involvement webpage. Participants will be provided access to the parent guide, a video series developed specifically for parents of students identified with disabilities, and additional materials. The presentation covers the following topics:

- Who is eligible for services under IDEA
- Need for special education and related services
 - Description of referral process
 - Discussion of response to intervention
- The Admission and Release Committee
- Evaluation
- Transition from early intervention
- The IEP
- Behavioral concerns
- Dispute resolution process
- Available resources

Training 2: Evaluation and Eligibility

A 90 minute presentation that is appropriate for both regular and special education staff. The content serves as a good introduction for new staff and a good refresher for seasoned professionals. It provides in-depth discussion of information regarding referral, evaluation and eligibility for special education

services. It includes discussion of response to intervention and answers questions regarding independent educational evaluations. Some of the topics covered include:

- Description of FAPE
- Child find process
- Referral process
- Evaluation requirements
- What happens when a parent disagrees with evaluation results
- Independent educational evaluation
- Re-evaluation process

Training 3: Effective Family/ School Partnerships

A 60 minute presentation that is appropriate for all teachers and related service providers. It focuses on fostering relationships with families that will lead to more effective and supportive programs for students, while opening the lines of communication. It includes discussion of ways parents can support and extend learning at home and in the community, and demonstrates a graphic organizer that can be used for skills practice in the home or community setting. The presentation includes discussion of:

- Building an effective family/school partnership
- Various roles and responsibilities of parents
- Homework and home support through the lens of extending learning
- Tips for helping parents support their child's learning and educational program
- School resources available to parents

Training 4: Successful Secondary Transition and Answers to Your SSI Questions

The 90 minute presentation is appropriate for anyone working with students identified with disabilities, but is especially pertinent for middle and high school staff. It provides discussion of the importance of planning for the future. A successful transition is the culmination of all the IEPs implemented during a student's educational experience. The presentation includes a 25 minute video that focuses on SSI benefits and the positive aspects of college and career readiness, including employment and other work based experiences. The facts presented should help staff diffuse concerns students and parent may have concerning SSI benefits and joining the workforce. The presentation covers the following topics:

- It's never too early to plan for a child's future
- How does special education prepare students for life after high school
- College and career readiness
- Video presentation: *The Truth About Supplemental Security Income: SSI*