

Parent Information Center on Special Education

Workshop Descriptions



**Parent Information Center
ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Parent Information Center
54 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: (603) 224-7005
or (800) 947-7005 (in NH)
E-mail: admin@picnh.org**

Workshops focused on Special Education Laws and the Process

The 3 Rs – Understanding Your Role, Rights and Responsibilities in the NH Special Education Process – (generally 2½ hours)

Using the steps in the NH special education process as a framework, this session provides an “advocacy toolbox” of information, resources and organizational tools and strategies, as well as answers to parents’ most frequently asked special education questions.

Around the Special Education World in One Day – (A 6 to 6½ hour seminar)

This comprehensive seminar provides participants with the tools they need to be better informed and more effective members of a child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team. Topics include: the *NH special education law & process; information on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and other related Federal laws, including Section 504 and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), disability awareness; the IEP, including tips to help prepare for and participate in IEP Team meetings; and effective communication strategies.*

Basic Special Education Rights – (generally 1 to 2 hours)

This introductory workshop provides a brief overview of each step in the special education process, emphasizing the important role of parents in the process.

Overview of Key Education and Disability Laws – (generally 2 hours)

This session provides participants with a basic understanding of the two major disability civil rights laws, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act & the Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA), along with a brief overview of other relevant education and health-care laws that may impact children/youth with disabilities.

Section 504 & IDEA: What’s the Difference? – (generally 2½ hours)

If you have ever wondered which law (the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act) applies to a child with a disability, this workshop provides a brief overview of each law, focusing on the purposes and eligibility requirements for each.

Steps in the NH Education Process – (generally 2½ to 3 hours)

This session includes an overview of each of step in the NH special education process that together provide eligible children with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

Suspension, Prevention & Intervention – (generally 2 to 2½ hours)

The special education laws provide specific protections for children with disabilities who experience behavioral challenges. This workshop provides an overview of the discipline procedures in the special education process, emphasizing best practices. Participants will learn about functional behavioral assessments, positive behavioral interventions, and manifestation determination.

Workshops focused on the IEP

Discovering What is in Your Child's IEP – There's More There Than You Think – *(generally 2 to 2½ hours)*

This session gives a “nuts and bolts” look at the IEP so that parents can be more informed members of their child's IEP team. Using the “Easy IEP” format as a foundation, participants learn about each component in their child's IEP. The session includes discussion of how all team members can work together to develop an IEP with all of the required components, including measurable annual goals based on evaluations and other data, individualized for their child.

The IEP Organizer – (generally 2 to 3 hours)

When parents have well-organized school records, including evaluations, IEPs, work samples and information from their child's doctor or specialists, they are able to use that information to participate more effectively and confidently in meetings of the IEP team. This workshop provides participants with materials, strategies and a tool they can use to organize their child's records. Participants may bring some of their child's school records and a large 3-ring binder to the workshop. *Complete IEP Organizers with dividers and helpful fact sheets will be available for sale.*

Workshops on Early Childhood Topics

IFSP Development – (generally about 1½ hours)

Following a brief overview of the Federal and State laws/rules that establish the requirements for Family-Centered Early Supports and Services (sometimes referred to as early intervention), this session focuses on the components of the Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) and strategies parents can use to be more effective participants in the development of their infant/toddler's IFSP. Handouts include a tool that parents can use to organize their child's early intervention records in preparation for the transition to special education.

My Child is Turning 3, Now What? – (generally 1½ to 2 hours)

This session provides participants with information on the transition from Family-Centered Early Supports and Services (ESS) to preschool special education. Participants learn about the differences between ESS and special education and ways they can work within each system to make the transition smoother.

Workshops on Effective Communication and Collaboration

How to Be an Effective Member of the IEP Team – (generally 1½ to 2 hours) Productive IEP meetings rely on all team members having a basic understanding of the special education process, including their rights, roles and responsibilities. The session includes an overview of each step in the special education process, as well as strategies to assist IEP Team members to work together more effectively.

Parents & Educators: Partners in the Special Education Process – (generally 1½ to 2½ hours) – A workshop for parents, educators/service providers or both.

This workshop highlights the importance of effective communication as a critical skill for parents and educators striving to work effectively together in supporting children with disabilities. We will discuss the communication process, barriers to effective communication and strategies to improve collaboration between parents and educators. Participants learn about how they can become more effective advocates for children by working together as partners in the special education process. This session can be tailored to meet the needs of the group.

Workshops/ Activities to Enhance Awareness of Disabilities

Supporting Your Child's School Success – (generally 2 to 3 hours)

This session offers practical support to parents of children with disabilities who want to help their children succeed at school, but just don't know how. The workshop will include tips and strategies to assist parents in knowing what schools expect of them. We will also discuss ways that parents can assist their children with homework and reinforce what they are learning at school.

Understanding Evaluations – What They Can Tell You About Your Child – (generally 2 to 3 hours) – This session provides information about evaluations, including how they inform parents, students, teachers/service providers about a child's strengths, and academic, developmental and behavioral challenges; and how evaluations can provide the IEP Team with data to develop an IEP that meets the child's needs so he/she can achieve high standards.

Understanding Your Child's Learning Style – (generally 2 hours)

In this session, parents of children with disabilities are reminded to emphasize their children's strengths, encouraging them to ask and help answer the question, "How can we help my child show us how much he/she knows and can do?" Participants discuss ways they can help identify their child's learning style and support their child's learning. Information about learning styles is provided.

Disability Awareness Kit (DAK) / Activities –

In developing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Congress found that, “Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society.”

PIC’s Disability Awareness Kit includes activities, information and resources that teachers, group leaders and others can use to “start the discussion” and support children in recognizing the diversity that exists in our schools and communities. The DAK builds children’s awareness of the disabilities they, their classmates, friends, and neighbors may experience, while encouraging peer connections by emphasizing the common interests and needs we all share. Contact PIC for more information.



Workshops on Secondary Transition / Preparing for Life After High School

Life After High School – (generally 2 hours)

This workshop gives participants an overview of the transition requirements in the IEP, including strategies they can use for effective transition planning. Participants will also learn how to encourage self-determination and independence for youth with disabilities beginning in the early years.

Envisioning Your Child’s Future – (generally 1½ to 2 hours)

This session can be tailored for parents or for parents and their children with disabilities to attend together. It can also be adapted for professionals.

Through a fun, hands-on activity, participants are encouraged to begin thinking about and preparing for their child’s future. Participants have the opportunity to share ideas, resources and strategize with each other.

Workshops on Other Special Education Topics

Extended School Year Services: Why, When, What & What Else? – (generally 1½ to 2 hours)

This session describes the Extended School Year (ESY) process for children with disabilities, and answers the questions, “What is ESY?”; “How does a child qualify?”; and “What are the options?”

Making a Difference – Getting Involved in the Policymaking Process – (generally 1½ hours)

Parents, individuals with disabilities and policymakers have all played an important historical role in developing today’s system of special education and other disability-focused civil right. In this session, participants will learn about the process by which policy is made and the various ways that parents, youth, educators and others can make a difference.

Training Series

Volunteer Advocates (VA) for Special Education Program – Training Series –

PIC's VA Training Program is a free 11-week course for parents and others who want to gain the knowledge and skills to support other parents of children with disabilities in the special education process, while at the same time, enhancing their own advocacy skills.

Topics covered in this program include:

- Federal and state special education laws and the steps in the special education process
- Effective parent/professional communication
- How to build effective parent/school partnerships
- Disability awareness

The VA program enhances PIC's capacity to reach and serve families statewide. The training series is offered twice each year. Since the program is only able to accommodate a limited number of participants each year, acceptance is not guaranteed. Individuals who are unable to participate in the VA training program are encouraged to attend other PIC workshops to increase their knowledge and skills.

Please contact PIC for more information or to receive an application to this training program. Acceptance is based on a number of factors, including ensuring that PIC's Volunteer Advocate Network is representative of the population served by the Parent Information Center, particularly individuals who are traditionally underserved.

Customized Training Series or Mini-Series

Schools, parent groups or other organizations/agencies are welcome to contact the Parent Information Center to discuss options to meet the needs of your group or organization. PIC will work with you to determine which workshop or workshops will meet your needs. Options may include an individual training session or workshop, facilitated discussion, resource fair, disability awareness activities, a mini-series consisting of several workshops, or any combination of these. Workshops are generally able to be modified to accommodate time constraints of the participants, and may be tailored to emphasize a particular topic, upon request. Please contact PIC for additional information.

Youth-focused Workshop Topics (generally 1-2 hours)

Sessions may be tailored to meet the needs and interests of the audience

*** Student Series** – *These workshops may be offered as individual sessions or combined into a 2-part or 3-part series for students who are youth with disabilities.*

Student Series workshops have been adapted from “Me! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Oklahoma, updated 2015

****Empowering Youth: It’s All About You!***

This session will enhance each student-participant’s understanding of the importance of self-advocacy and how it relates to the secondary transition components in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

****It’s Your IEP ... It’s Your Life!***

Participants will review the transition related components of the IEP to increase the student’s understanding of how the IEP can be a useful tool for planning for life after high school.

****Taking It to the Next Step; Pulling It All Together!***

This workshop will increase and enhance the student’s ability to understand what happens in an IEP team meeting, and how to use self-advocacy skills to promote successful post-secondary transition planning.

Envisioning My Future – *A workshop for youth with disabilities; it may be adapted for parents alone, or for parents and youth to attend together.*

This interactive workshop uses a fun, hands-on activity to facilitate participants creating a visual image of what they want their future to look like. Participants have the opportunity to share ideas, resources and strategize with each other during the session. The session includes a discussion about how to “connect the dots” to work towards the future that they have envisioned for themselves. Following the activity, participants are encouraged to take steps to plan for their future, and given tools to make a plan for achieving their future goals.



Parent Information Center on Special Education workshops are generally offered free of charge, as our resources allow, to parents of children/youth with disabilities, youth with disabilities, support groups, community organizations/ agencies, schools and others, as long as they are open to the general public at no charge and held in a fully accessible location. Special fee arrangements may be made for individuals or groups who would like to sponsor a workshop outside of our established parameters. PIC is also able to work with schools and businesses to provide in-service training.

PIC appreciates the generosity of local parent groups, schools and organizations/agencies who host a Parent Information Center workshop or training series to assist us in reaching families throughout the state.

Donations enable us to expand our services and are always appreciated.

Please contact us at (603) 224-7005 or 1-800-947-7005 (in NH) or visit our website at www.nhspecialled.org to host a PIC-SE workshop, or for more information. PIC's websites include a calendar of upcoming workshops and training sessions.

We appreciate your support in distributing information about scheduled workshops to enhance our outreach efforts.

Parent Information Center
54 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: (603) 224-7005
or (800) 947-7005 (in NH)
E-mail: admin@picnh.org
Visit our website at www.nhspecialled.org



**Parent Information Center
ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**