

Advocacy Resources for Parents

The information on advocacy resources agencies below is taken from the website of each agency.

ARCh

ARCh's **Advocacy** program offers assistance for children with special needs, as they and their parents seek to navigate through the often-confusing special education system. Through information and assistance, Advocacy builds teams around children to support them as they pursue and achieve their educational dreams. By focusing on the individual needs and abilities of each child served, ARCh works to insure that parents, medical personnel and educators understand the rights and responsibilities of all who are involved in making sure that each child's voice is heard.

Our Advocacy Program also addresses parents' concerns regarding the rights of adult children who have disabilities.

About Personal Advocacy

The Advocacy program was developed in response to parents' requests for assistance regarding school-aged children and the special education process within the public schools.

Our philosophy and approach to advocacy fosters the building of teams around children and adults with disabilities. Through collaboration and sharing of effective advocacy techniques, our goal is to provide support for each unique individual. We serve as independent advocates for the individual with a disability.

Advocacy Services include:

- ✓ Providing information and referral services
- ✓ Critique Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and service plans
- ✓ Attend evaluations, IEP's and other team meetings for children
- ✓ Consult with families in their homes or at the ARCh office to answer questions and determine a plan of action
- ✓ Teach advocacy and self-advocacy techniques
- ✓ Make referrals to appropriate community agencies and services
- ✓ Help families understand the complexities of the educational and adult service system
- ✓ Attend residential, vocational and/or day program staffing for adults
- ✓ Meet with families to explain and discuss the [ARCh Life Needs Trust](#)
- ✓ Offer "Peer Power", a program for young adults combining classes in self-advocacy with community outings and a support for parents.

ARCh Office Location

419 Frederick Street
Waukesha, WI 53186-5606
Phone: 262-542-9811
Fax: 262-542-5280

<http://www.waukeshaarch.org>

WI FACETS

Services

WI FACETS provides 5 core services to help parents and others support and enrich the lives of children with disabilities.

Information & Referral

We are available to help with your questions about programs, services and resources. We can assist by providing you with information and referrals to other programs/agencies. We can also help you brainstorm options and solutions. We do not provide legal advice or legal representation. Call toll-free 1-877-374-0511.

Support Groups

We offer several ways for parents and caretakers to share, learn and discuss ideas with each other. Support groups meet regularly in several communities throughout the state. Online support groups are also available. Call toll-free 1-877-374-0511.

Parent Leadership

Our Volunteer Parent Leaders receive regular training and support from WI FACETS so they can help families in their communities with special education issues. If you are interested in learning more about our Volunteer Parent Leader Program, Call toll-free 1-877-374-0511 or [click here](#) for more information.

Individual Assistance

We provide free one-to-one support to parents and professionals by phone and in-person. This includes providing a very limited amount of in-person support for families at school meetings and mediations. When parents ask for in-person support, our ability to attend meetings and mediations is based on the issues involved, staff availability, and grant funds available. We are not able to attend due process hearings or resolution sessions.

Youth Leadership Development

WI FACETS is committed to assisting youth and young adults develop leadership and self-advocacy skills so that they may lead productive, meaningful adult lives. We offer several programs for transition aged youth and their families. [Click here](#) for more information.

Office of Civil Rights

This information is taken from:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html?src=rt>

Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Complaint

A complaint can be made by any person who believes he/she or any specific class of individuals has been subjected to discrimination. The written complaint is to be sent to the Office for Civil Rights. The complaint must indicate that discrimination occurred. It must be filed no later than 180 days from the alleged occurrence of discrimination. OCR may extend the 180-day period if you can show "good cause."

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMPLAINT TO OCR

Information on how to file a discrimination complaint with the Office for Civil Rights may be found at: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/howto.html?src=rt>

E-mail: Complainants may file a complaint, using the following e-mail address: ocr@ed.gov. Use the same procedures as above.

Online: Complainants may file a complaint with OCR using OCR's electronic complaint form at the following website: <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>.

Wisconsin Department Of Public Instruction (DPI) Special Education Links

An Introduction to Special Education : <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/intro-se.pdf>

Information For Parents : <http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/hmparents.html>

Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System (WSEMS)

<http://www.wsems.us>

Mediation & Facilitated IEP Intake Coordinator

Contact : Jane Burns

Phone Toll Free: (888) 298-3857

Email: jane@wsens.us