

Parent Related Resources updated 01-17-12

Statewide Parent Organizations in Wisconsin

WSPEI: Funded through a DPI discretionary grant – WPSEI CESA coordinators (parents who have children with disabilities and work at the CESA) are available to provide technical assistance and information to parents in their CESA area free of charge. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/parent.html>

Parent to Parent: Matches parents to other parents with similar needs. <http://www.p2pwi.org/>

WI FACETS: Wisconsin FACETS is Wisconsin's Parent Training and Information Center – FACETS Parent Leaders (parents who have children with disabilities) provide support for underserved parents/families in the community. <http://www.wifacets.org/>

Disability Rights Wisconsin: Disability Rights Wisconsin is a private non-profit organization designated by the Governor to ensure the rights of all state citizens with disabilities through individual advocacy and system change, DRW is part of a national system of federally mandated independent disability agencies. <http://www.disabilityrightswi.org/>

Wisconsin Family Ties: A statewide organization that supports students with mental health care needs. <http://www.wifamilyties.org/>

Autism Society of Wisconsin: Links to regional chapters and statewide information, conferences, information. <http://www.asw4autism.org/>

DPI Community Learning & Partnerships Team: The DPI Community Learning and Partnerships team brings together staff and programs that focus on helping to build strong communities. www.dpi.wi.gov/fsdp/index.html

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN): The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program collaborates with national, state and community-based partners to link children to appropriate services, close service gaps, reduce duplication and develop policies to better serve families. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/children/>

Regional Centers – Wisconsin First Step: Wisconsin's Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) has five regional centers to assist families with resources for their children. <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/health/children/resourcecenters/index.htm>

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities: The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (WBPDD) was established to advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities, foster welcoming and inclusive communities, and improve the disability service system. The Board's mission is to help people with developmental disabilities become independent, productive, and included in all facets of community life. <http://www.wi-bpdd.org/>

Family Voices of Wisconsin: Family Voices of Wisconsin is a statewide network of families who have children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities and those who work on their behalf. We support families by providing information, training and leadership opportunities so that families can be informed and effective partners in their child's care and in the systems that support them. <http://fvofwi.org/>

Wisconsin PTA: Wisconsin's Parent-Teacher Association web site. www.wisconsinpta.org

Printable Resources

Communication Options for Families: A one page summary of parents' educational options when they have questions or disagree with decisions of schools. <http://www.wisconsin.gov/education/communicationoptionsforfamilies.pdf>

SPED in Plain Language: A parent friendly resource that explains education laws, policies, and practices in Wisconsin. <http://www.specialed.us/pl-07/pl07-printinstruct.html>

Introduction to Special Education: A general overview of special education and the IEP process. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/intro-se.pdf>

You can also access **SPED in Plain Language and Intro to SPED as pdf** in Spanish/English. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/hmparents.html>

Parents Rights in Special Education (Procedural Safeguards): This document explains the rights parents and students have in regards to special education services. <http://www.wisconsin.gov/education/proceduralsafeguardsbooklet.pdf>

Early Childhood Transition Timelines: This parent friendly Early Childhood resource gives information on the timelines parents should be aware of for children that are transitioning from birth to 3 programs to school age <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/spp12-transition-timeline-pl-lang.pdf>

Early Childhood Outcomes Parent Brochure: From Wisconsin Department of Health and Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, this resource informs parents on early childhood outcomes, assessment, and parent involvement. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/spp7-brochure-moving-forward.pdf>

Quality Child Care for Children with Special Needs: From Wisconsin Child Care Information Center, this brochure contains information for parents on selecting child care facilities as well as information on parents rights in regards to both Special Education and Americans with Disabilities Act. http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/ccic/pdf/together_ch_g.pdf

Post Secondary Transition Action Guide: Developed by Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD), and Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services (DHS), this guide outlines post-school planning for students in special education. http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/pdf_files/tag.pdf

Finding Your Way – A publication through the Waisman Center and (CYSHCN) – this guide is a highly acclaimed resource for families. <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/pdfs/FindingYourWay.pdf>

Print versions of these and other great parent friendly resources can be ordered online (for a fee): http://www.wispedg.org/pl/Revised_Parent_Leadership_Hub_Order_Form-9-08.pdf

DPI Web Resources

Frequently used Educational Acronyms: An A-Z on special education related terms such as AT, CESA, IDEA, LRE, and many more! <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/acronym.html>

SPED index: An A-Z index of information from DPI. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/bulindex.html>

DPI Bulletin Page: Great technical information from DPI on subjects ranging from transition, early childhood, use of paraprofessionals, writing IEPs, and behavior management (BIP and FBA). <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/bulindex.html>

DPI SPED Team Index: An updated listing of DPI Special Education Team Positions and Contacts. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/hmstaff.html>

Early Childhood Information from DPI: Includes frequently asked questions about Early Childhood and DPI updates. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/ec/ecspedhm.html>

Information Compiled by Daniel Parker, DPI Special Education Consultant updated 1-17-12

[Transition Information from DPI](#): Includes transition guides such as the Opening Doors Series, DPI updates and other transition related resources. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/transition.html>

[Mediation and Facilitated IEP](#): One of the dispute resolutions available for parents that emphasize communication between families and schools to focus on the student. DPI has been recognized nationally for high parent/school satisfaction rates with the WI mediation system. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/wsems.html>

[Filing a DPI Complaint](#): Any individual or organization may file a complaint with the Department of Public Instruction if they believe a public agency has violated state or federal requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) when providing special education programs. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/complain.html>

[Due Process](#): Either the parent/adult student or the school district has the right to request a due process hearing whenever there is a dispute between the parent and the school district over the district's proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, proposed IEP or portion thereof, the implementation of the IEP, educational placement, or the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE). <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/dueproc.html>

Web Resources for Children and Families

[Family Village](#) – A Global Community of Disability Related Resources sponsored by the Waisman Center. <http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu/>

[Waisman Center Connections](#): A web site listing numerous family resources for health care, educational services, financial support, and behavior and social support for students with autism and other developmental disabilities. <https://www.waisman.wisc.edu/connections/resources.php>

[Steps to Success: Communicating you're your Child's School](#). A guide that offers specific communication skills that may be helpful to parents as they develop and maintain partnerships with their child's school. <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/success.cfm>

[Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative](#) (WSTI): A site full of transition related resources. <http://www.wsti.org/>

[WSTI Transition Guide](#): This feature from the WSTI web site allows users to look up transition related resources by county. <http://www.wsti.org/trd.php>

[Wisconsin PBIS Network](#): Wisconsin's Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Network includes information for educators and families on PBIS structures and supports. www.wisconsinpbisnetwork.org

[Wisconsin RTI Center](#): Wisconsin's Response to Interventions Network includes information for educators and families on RTI structures and supports. <http://www.wisconsinrticenter.org/>

CESAs (Cooperative Educational Service Agencies): CESAs are designed to serve educational needs in all areas of Wisconsin by serving as a link both between school districts and between school districts and the state. CESAs may provide leadership, coordination and education services to school districts, University of Wisconsin System institutions and technical colleges.

A **[list of CESAs contact information](#)** can be found at <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cesa.html>

A **[list of districts in each CESA](#)** can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/lbstat/distcesa.html>

A **[map of CESAs](#)** in Wisconsin can be found at <http://dpi.wi.gov/lbstat/newmap2.html>

A **[list of Special Education Regional Service Network Directors](#)** for each CESA can be found at: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/doc/rsn-list.doc>

Frequency Asked Educational Questions

Home Schooling: Information and guidelines from DPI on homeschooling.
<http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/subjects.html#homebased>

School Choice and Open Enrollment: Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they reside. Scroll down to the bottom of this page for a list of topics. Information from Wisconsin DPI web site: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

WI FACETS, DRW, and WIBPD developed a [brochure for parents of children with disabilities that explains the differences between voucher, charter, and traditional public schools](http://www.wi-bpdd.org/publications/2011/SchoolChoiceStudentsDisabilities.pdf) when considering open enrollment options: <http://www.wi-bpdd.org/publications/2011/SchoolChoiceStudentsDisabilities.pdf>

National Organizations that support Families and Provide Resources

National Technical Assistance Center on PBIS: The Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (PBIS) was established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education to support schools implementing PBIS. <http://www.pbis.org/>

National Response to Intervention (RTI) Center: The Technical Assistance Center on Response to Intervention (RTI) was established by the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education to support schools implementing RTI.
<http://www.rti4success.org/>

Disability.gov: Disability.gov is the federal government website for comprehensive information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide. The site links to more than 14,000 resources from federal, state and local government agencies; academic institutions; and nonprofit organizations. You can find answers to questions about everything from Social Security to employment to affordable and accessible housing. <https://www.disability.gov/>

National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities: A national site with information on disabilities for infants, children, and youth and houses numerous resources and articles on a variety of topics. <http://nichcy.org/>

National Parent Technical Assistance Center (NPTAC): Provides a guide to parent centers nationwide as well as resources for parent centers.
<http://www.parentcenternetwork.org/national/aboutus.html>

National Council on Disability: An independent Federal agency committed to disability policy leadership. <http://www.ncd.gov/>

Sibling Support Project: A national effort dedicated to the life-long concerns of brothers and sisters of people who have special health, developmental, or mental health concerns. <http://www.siblingsupport.org/>

CADRE: The National Center on Dispute Resolution in Special Education. Encouraging the use of mediation and other collaborative strategies to resolve disagreements about special education and early intervention programs. <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/index.cfm>

DHS (Department of Human Services) Autism Related Information

DHS Medicaid Waiver and Consultants Availability to be in Schools: This information outlines the limitations of Medicaid funded home services and services provided in schools. http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/waivermanual/app_e_docs/CLTSSchoolPolicy.pdf

DHS Autism Related Policies: Other policies from DHS about the CLTS Autism Medicaid Waiver program. http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/waivermanual/app_e.htm

Other Free Autism Related Web Resources

Seclusion and Restraint: Recommended information staff/administrators access if seclusion/restraint is used. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/sbseclusion.html>

DPI Autism Page: Autism related information and training registration. Also has link to course credit for current autism trainings. <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/autism.html>

IDEA Partnership's Collaborative Work on Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): A site dedicated to improving outcomes for students and youth with disabilities by joining state agencies and stakeholders through shared work and learning. There are some great autism related resources on this site. www.idealpartnership.org

Assistive Technology Internet Modules: From the same people that brought you Autism Internet Modules, this resource currently has only two modules (AT consideration for IEP process and Automatic Speech Recognition) but has 39 more in development. http://www.atinternetmodules.org/user_about.php

Autism Internet Modules: Sign up for free to access modules on evidence based practices for students with autism. <http://www.autisminternetmodules.org/>

Free Autism Class: Sign up for a free (no credit) class on autism through Waisman and the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders. <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/cedd/autismpdc/foundation.php>

National Autism Center: Released a report on evidence based practices. Sign up for free to see the report. <http://www.nationalautismcenter.org/nsp/reports.php>

The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders: The National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders is a multi-university center to promote the use of evidence-based practice for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. <http://autismpdc.fpg.unc.edu>

Susan/Paula's wiki for IPAD apps: Susan Stokes and Paula Walser from CESA 6 have developed a wiki with numerous ideas and apps for technology relating to the needs of students with autism. <http://aswtechtools.pbworks.com/>

Michelle Garcia Winner: A speech/language pathologist who has written several books that focus on social language curriculum and skills. www.SocialThinking.com

Paula Kluth: A speech/language pathologist who has written several books on inclusive practices for students with disabilities as well as methodologies and perspectives on challenging behavior. <http://www.paulakluth.com>

Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative: www.wati.org

Regional Center Brochures on Autism Resources by Location

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources—State: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294.pdf>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources - Northern: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294A.pdf>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources – Northeastern: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294B.pdf>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources – Southern: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294C.pdf>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources – Southeastern: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294D.pdf>

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Resources – Western: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/P0/P00294E.pdf>