



# New York State EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

## Office of Special Education News and Notes- April 2016

### **Promoting Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination Skills for Students with Disabilities**

An essential principle for improved results for students with disabilities is to ensure that students are provided instruction, opportunities for practice and support to engage in self-advocacy and to be involved in determining their own educational goals and plans (self-determination). Some of the ways in which schools can assist students with disabilities to acquire and have opportunities to practice these skills are to have them actively participate in their individualized education program (IEP) meetings; create and monitor their progress towards academic and social goals; and engage in career planning and selection of courses of study to prepare them for post-secondary living, working and learning. For resources, tools and professional development on this topic, contact:

Special Education Parent Centers  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm>

Regional Special Education Technical Assistance and Support Centers (RSE-TASC) Regional Special Education Trainers and Transition Specialists  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/rsetasc/locations.htm>

Research to practice brief "Self-Determination: Supporting Successful Transition" This resource provides some very

helpful tips for families and professionals to promoting self-determination in youth with disabilities.

<http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=962>

Regional Student-Directed IEPs Celebration Event - Hudson Valley Special Education Parent Center, located at Westchester Institute for Human Development  
May 13 @ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

<http://www.wihd.org/event/student-directed-ieps/>

Blueprint for Improved Results for Students with Disabilities

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2015-memos/blueprint-for-improved-results-for-students-with-disabilities.html>

### **New York State Annual Performance Plan and State Systemic Improvement Plan**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) requires each state to have in place a State Performance Plan (SPP) and an Annual Performance Report (APR) to evaluate and report on its efforts to implement the requirements and purposes of Part B of IDEA. New York State's Annual Performance Report for federal fiscal year 2014 and the State Systemic Improvement Plan are posted at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/spp/>.

### **Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services**

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) is currently seeking applications from parents of students with disabilities (ages 3-26) or individuals with disabilities for appointment to the Commissioner's Advisory Panel (CAP) for Special Education Services for a three year term beginning July 1, 2016. For additional information regarding CAP, see <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/cap/> or call (518) 473-2878. Individuals who are interested in consideration for appointment to CAP should send a cover letter and resume to:

New York State Education Department  
Office of Special Education Policy Unit  
89 Washington Avenue, Room 309 EB  
Albany, NY 12234

### **Youth Advisory Panel**

NYSED is seeking nominations for new members to the Youth Advisory Panel. The panel, established in 2014, advises the Office of Special Education on proposed policies related to the education of students with disabilities. Additional information and the nomination form regarding the Youth Advisory Panel can be found at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/youthpanel/home.html>.

### **Information for New York City Parents on Response to Intervention (Rtl)**

The New York City regional Response to Intervention (Rtl) Professional development team is sponsoring two parent information sessions on Rtl in May for parents in the New York City region. A brochure for these sessions is posted on the Rtl TAC website: <http://www.nysrti.org/docs/ParentFlyer-4-20-16.pdf>

### **Professional Development Opportunity Hosted by the New York University Metro Center - Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality**

NYSED is pleased to announce the Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality (TAC-D) 2016 Summer Institute – *Unleashing the Power of Culturally Responsive Education in the 21st Century: Empowering Students,*

*Families and Educators.* The Institute, to be held on Friday, **May 20, 2016** provides district and school staff, researchers, and technical assistance providers with an opportunity to learn and share information on effective practices to ensure culturally responsive instruction and alternatives to suspension to enrich learning for all students. To learn more about the 2016 Summer Institute, including registration information please visit the TAC-D 2016 Summer Institute website at: <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/tacdsu/mmerinstitute/>.

### **Special Education Data System**

In an effort to streamline access to NYSED applications, the special education data system (PD) will now be part of the NYSED Business Portal. Please see the memo at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sedcar/rss/specialedfeed.xml> for additional information.

### **Revised Proposed Regulations**

In response to public comment, NYSED has revised proposed regulations to amend sections 200.4, 200.16 and 200.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner relating to 1:1 aide recommendations and preschool special education programs and services. Public comment on the revised proposed regulations will be accepted until May 6, 2016. See <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/2016-memos/regulation-amendment-for-one-to-one-aides.html>



New York State Education Department  
Office of Special Education  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234  
(518) 473-2878  
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/>