

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Statewide Events

Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) Training Proposals
WSPEI (Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative) is seeking proposals from school districts, communities, parent groups or agencies that would like to host a Youth in Partnership with Parents for Empowerment (YIPPE) training for 2013-2014.

*YIPPE proposals need to be submitted by **February 14th, 2013**.*

QUESTIONS: If you would like us to consider a YIPPE in your community, please contact Martha DeYoung, CESA 5, at deyoungm@cesa5.org or call 608-745-5435.

Parents in Partnership (PIP) Training Proposals

WSPEI (Wisconsin Statewide Parent Education Initiative) is seeking proposals from school districts, communities, parent groups or agencies that would like to host a Parents in Partnership (PIP) training for 2013-2014.

*PIP proposals need to be submitted by **February 14th, 2013**.*

QUESTIONS: If you would like us to consider a PIP training in your community, please contact Martha DeYoung, CESA 5, at deyoungm@cesa5.org or call 608-745-5435.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK!

For the past 3 years, the Parent Leadership Hub has provided the *Weekly E-News Update* to hundreds of parents and professionals concerned with special education in Wisconsin.

2013 has brought about some changes. The *Weekly E-News Update* is now the *Wisconsin's Family Engagement Newsletter*. Instead of having the newsletter come out once a week, we will now send it out once a month.

The focus of the newsletter is to have a resource for families, schools, and agencies to go to for family engagement news,



success stories, recent research, statewide events, and online resources.

We welcome all to contribute to this newsletter by submitting articles, events, and resources. Please complete the attached form for submissions.

For questions, more information, or to contact us, email or call:

Matthew Zellmer:
mzellmer@wifacets.org or
414-374-4645 x203

Emilie Braunel:
ebraunel@wifacets.org or
715-561-2559

[Link to Contribution Form](#)

RESEARCH TO READ

Involvement or Engagement?

By Larry Ferlazzo
Educational Leadership
68.8 (2011):10-14.

What is the difference between *family involvement* and *family engagement*? This article discusses the important differences between the two and how the choice of

words can affect the attitudes and participation of school staff and parents in school-family partnerships.

Ferlazzo also discusses how positive school-family connections can make a difference to students both in school and in the community.

This article can be found on the Educational Leadership website. To read the entire article, visit:

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/may11/vol68/num08/Involvement-or-Engagement%2%A2.aspx>

The Wisconsin Statewide Transition Initiative (WSTI)

has scheduled 2 professional development opportunities for teachers of students with disabilities on the Community Services Option Guide (CSO) and "A New Way of Thinking".

Trainings will be held as follows:

Jan. 28, 2013: CESA 10: Free

Jan. 30, 2013: CESA 5: \$15 charge (will require additional registration for payment at:

<http://goo.gl/IT5LR>)

Check-in will be at 8:30am.

To register for one of these events, please go to the WSTI website: <http://www.wsti.org>

Presentation content questions may be directed to: Pam Jenson (pamj@wsti.org)

Registration difficulties may be directed to: Jen Ledin (jenl@wsti.org)

TRAILS: Transition Program for Parents of Teens, 2013

When: January 26, February 23, April 20th, and May 4th

Where: Eastbrook Church, Milwaukee

More information and online registration available here:

<http://www.asew.org/category/educational-programs/>

Cost: \$100 for series of 4 workshops, lunch included, \$150 for both parents

Contact Julie Quigley at 414-427-9345, info@asew.org

Our children...Our Family... Our Future: Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) District Family Engagement Liaison Trainings

When: January 29th, 2013 at 10:30-4:30 & March 19th, 2013 at 9:00-4:30

Where: CESA #2, 1221 Innovation Drive, Whitewater, WI

Registration deadline is **Jan. 22nd, 2013**

For registration information, contact: Sharon Anderson at: Sharon.anderson@cesa2.org or go to: www.myquickreg.com

RESEARCH TO READ

Encouraging Meaningful Parent/Educator Collaboration: A Review of Recent Literature

from the Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE).

This is a document highlighting the recent findings from studies and policies on the importance of family/school relationships.

This document includes topics on collaboration, parents as untapped

resources for schools, the importance of educating educators on family engagement, the importance of educating parents in advocacy and collaboration skills, and the need for leadership and policies to support the increase of family engagement in schools.

There is also a list of six recommendations included in the article that are based on the major themes found in the recent studies.

Finally, the list of references found at the end of the paper is a resource for parents, educators, and administrators to go to for more information on any of the topics highlighted in the article.

The research can be found at: <http://www.directionservice.org/cadre/exemplar/artifacts/Encouraging%20Meaningful%20Collaboration.pdf>

STATEWIDE PARENT AGENCY:

Parent  Parent of Wisconsin

...making connections statewide

When a parent first finds out that their child has a disability, it can be a very difficult thing to hear. Since there is often no way to prepare for such news, many seek a way to cope. Parent to Parent of Wisconsin can help provide that.

Parent to Parent is a nonprofit organization that gives a parent or guardian the chance to talk to and build a one-to-one relationship with another parent who has been through a similar situation. Other parents who know the challenges of caring for a child with special needs can be

some of the best people to be able to share your thoughts and feelings with, and making that connection reminds parents that they are not alone.

To make a connection, go to <https://secure.bluehost.com/~northwoo/p2pwi.org/connect.html> and fill out the online request form. Parents will be asked to list what they are looking for in a good match to help make sure their connection is right for them. For those interested in becoming a mentor, Parent to Parent does provide training

periodically. For parents wanting to know more about the basics of research, Parent to Parent has a resource titled "Parents Educated About Research (P.E.A.R.) Project". Visit <http://www.p2pwi.org/PEARProject.pdf> to learn more.

All services are free statewide. For more information, contact Parent to Parent at (715) 361-2934, toll free at 1-888-266-0028 or email connected@p2pwi.org. Visit the Parent to Parent website at <http://www.p2pwi.org>.

FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES

TOPIC: FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools

Advancing research and improving education is the goal of the National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools. Housed at SEDL, this national center disseminates research-based information and resources to foster connections among families, communities, and schools that support school improvement and student learning. Available products include toolkits, an online database of resources, research syntheses and briefs, and webinars.

<http://www.sedl.org/connections/>

SEDL: Family and Community

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL) has a mission to strengthen the connections among research, policy, and practice in order to improve outcomes for all learners. They are a nonprofit education research, development, and dissemination organization. They offer professional development and technical assistance to support schools, districts, and agencies in engaging families and the community as a school improvement strategy. Visit their site to view online modules, archived webinars, and other resources.

<http://www.sedl.org/cgi-bin/mysql/corp/redirect.cgi>

The Harvard Family Research Project on Family Involvement

They are committed to meeting the growing demand for information on effective ways to support family involvement in children's learning and development through research and resources. Learn about the research offered to policymakers and advocates to develop effective policies promoting family engagement and sign up for the Family Involvement Network of Educators (FINE) newsletter to receive the newest and best family involvement research and resources from the Harvard Family Research Project and other field leaders.

<http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement>

Project Appleseed: National Campaign for Public School Improvement

Project Appleseed provides resources for parents who want to be engaged in their children's schools and for schools who seek their involvement. They are a nonprofit resource, advocate, and voice for families, in the pursuit of life liberty and happiness, by means of a quality education in America's public schools. Project Appleseed has three purposes—improvement in learning, wellness, and school facilities.

<http://www.projectappleseed.org/chklst.html>



Chicken Soup for the Soul Parent Workshops

Where: Central-Denison Library, 900 Wisconsin, Lake Geneva 53147

Questions: [262-348-4000, ext. 4214](tel:262-348-4000) Mrs. Chris Slawson or christine.slawson@badger.k12.wi.us

Refreshments included. Free resources. Lending library. Childcare if you call one week ahead

Topic: Cooperation, Respect, Friendship; the Hidden Curriculum

When: Feb. 21, 6-7:30 PM

Topic: Sensory Helps and Visual Supports; Self-Monitoring

When: April 18, 6-7:30 PM

"My Feelings Matter!"

Poster Contest

[Energize your community around children's mental health -- encourage children and youth of all ages to participate in a poster contest!](#)

Connecting with children about their feelings, validating them and helping children develop ways to appropriately express emotions supports mental health and overall well-being. Participation in the Poster Contest is one way to draw attention to the importance of our internal well-being. Preschool through high school age groups are eligible to participate.

Submissions will be accepted **February 1, 2013 through March 8, 2013** and a prize will be awarded to a winner in each category. To find out more about the contest go here:

<http://wisconsinknowschildrensmentalhealthmatters.wordpress.com/poster-contest/>

The contest is hosted by the Children's Mental Health Matters Coalition. To learn more about the contest and ways to support children's mental health please visit:

<http://wisconsinknowschildrensmentalhealthmatters.wordpress.com/>

VSA Wisconsin Call for Art

The annual [Call for Art](#) for adults and youth with disabilities is now underway. This initiative is open to Wisconsin residents ages 5 and up who have a behavioral, cognitive, learning, or physical disability and/or a mental illness.

Artists who submit works of art by **February 4, 2013** will be included in a public exhibition and become eligible to win several awards. The top ten selections will be added to [Creative Power: VSA Wisconsin's Traveling Exhibition](#). Work from all artists who submit to the Call for Art will be on view from March 16 through April 10, 2013 at the VSA Wisconsin Gallery in Madison.

Download a [Call for Art Entry Form](#). To request a hard copy or for more information, call 608-241-2131 or email vsawis@vsawis.org

UPCOMING WIFACETS WORKSHOPS

To register: Contact Sandra McFarland at (877) 374-0511 or smcfarland@wifacets.org.

Register online at www.wifacets.org.

WI FACETS: Is It Sensory or Is It Behavior

When: January 30, 7-8pm
Presenter: Christine Slawson, Special Education Teacher, Lake Geneva Schools

WI FACETS: Communication Strategies

When: February 5, 7-8pm
Presenter: Charlotte Price, WI FACETS

WI FACETS: Functional Behavior Assessment, Behavior Intervention Plans & Positive Behavior Interventions & Support

When: February 6, 12-1pm
Presenter: Daniel Parker, DPI

WI FACETS: Types of Decision-Making Groups

When: February 7, 12-1pm & 7-8pm
Presenter: Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Use the attached fillable PDF form for contributing articles, events, and resources.

Send submittals to mzellmer@wifacets.org or ebraunel@wifacets.org

*Deadline for submitting contributions to each month's issue is by the **20th of each month at noon**. For time sensitive training advertisements, the information should be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the event date; ideally a month ahead of time.*

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to sources of family involvement/parent leadership resources, advertisements for statewide trainings for parents, youth or parent/educator audiences, information about statewide parent agencies, recent research pertaining to family engagement, and family engagement success articles. Family engagement success or impact stories can be written at an individual or family level, classroom level, school building level, district level, county level, CESA level, etc.

Your submittal may not be in the final copy of the upcoming month's newsletter if it was in a previous month's email, the event date has passed, the web link doesn't work, or there is already an article in place. Articles and resources will be saved to be used for later newsletters. We reserve the right to edit contributions as needed.

This month's update is provided by WI FACETS to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement.

* **WIFACETS website:** <http://www.wifacets.org> 

Please visit the following links to the Parent Leadership Hub web page of the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) website:

* **Just in Time Information (JITI):** http://wispdg.org/pl/res_jit.html

* **Resources:** <http://www.wispdg.org/pl/resources.html>

* **Multi-Media Workshops, Video and Webcasts:** <http://wispdg.org/pl-multi.html>

DISCLAIMER

Inclusion of information in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Wisconsin FACETS, the Department of Public Instruction, the U.S. Department of Education, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

NOTE: If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please contact:

Emilie Braunel, WI FACETS SPDG Coordinator at 715-561-2559 or ebraunel@wifacets.org

Matthew Zellmer, WI FACETS SPDG Research Coordinator at 414-374-4645 x203 or mzellmer@wifacets.org.



Wisconsin's Family Engagement Newsletter Submission Form

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1. CONTACT INFORMATION *(must be completed):*

Name	
Org./School/Agency <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Email	
Phone	
Address	
City, State, Zip Code	

2. To submit an **EVENT** or **TRAINING** for the newsletter, complete the form below.

Name of Event	
Summary of Event <i>(optional)</i>	
Date(s)	
Time(s)	
Location	
Registration Information	
Contact Information	
Special Instructions	

3. To submit a **FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SUCCESS/IMPACT STORY**, complete the form below.

Title	
Author(s)	
Family Engagement Story <i>(225 word max.)</i>	

4. To submit an **ONLINE RESOURCE** for the newsletter, complete the form below.

Title of Resource	
Summary of Resource <i>(50 words max.)</i>	
Web Link to Resource	

5. To submit a **RESEARCH ARTICLE** for the newsletter, complete the form below.

Title of Research Article	
Author(s)	
Publication Title and Date	
Summary of Research <i>(125 words max.)</i>	
Web Link to Research Article	

6. To submit a **STATEWIDE PARENT AGENCY** for the newsletter, complete the form below.

Name of Agency	
Contact Information	
Agency Website Address	
Summary of Agency <i>(200 words max.)</i>	
Population Served	
Services Provided	

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