



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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The Need for Self-Advocacy After High School for Individuals with Disabilities

By Wendy Overturf

Once they leave high school, students with learning disabilities (or any disability) no longer have the same guarantees to special education and accommodations that they had in high school. Instead, students need to be their own self-advocates and disclose their learning and attention issues to receive accommodations in post-secondary schools or in the workplace. The following information on self-advocacy is modified from the [Learning Disabilities Association of America website](#) based on an [article](#) written by AnneMarie Molinari-Sanders, Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy & Learning, Texas A&M University and Candace Joles, COPE Student Support Services, Vincennes University.

Being Aware of Your Rights is Vital to Self-Advocating and Being Successful

In K-12 schooling, as a person with a disability, you are guaranteed a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The shift to the “adult” world requires you to make decisions about pursuing post-secondary education or other vocational training and/or seeking career opportunities and managing daily independent living demands. At that time, the federal laws that provide equal access to education and other public services shift too.

[\(A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities. Washington, D.C., 2020.\)](#) Once you are out of K-12 school, your rights as a person with a disability are protected under [Section 504](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title II of the [Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act \(ADAA\) of 2008](#).

[Read Full Article](#)

UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

[Behavior, Discipline and Students with Disabilities](#)

Presenter: Eric Kestin, WI DPI

Date: October 4, 2023

[Mediación de educación especial](#)

Presenter: Nelsinia Ramos, WI FACETS

Date: October 5, 2023

[Serving on Groups – Processes Groups Use \(Part 3\)](#)

Presenter: Jan Serak, Serak Consulting

Date: October 5, 2023

[IEP 5: Writing the IEP \(Part 1\)](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: October 10, 2023, 12pm-12:45pm

[Shortened School Day](#)

Presenter: Marge Resan and Eva Shaw, WI DPI

Date: October 11, 2023

[Life Lessons from Dr. Seuss: We Are All Needed in this World & Need to Find Our Voices](#)

Presenter: Tim Markle, Forgiveness Factor

Date: October 18, 2023

[Serving on Groups – Tools & Tips \(Parts 4 & 5\)](#)

Presenter: Jan Serak, Serak Consulting

Date: October 19, 2023

[IEP Mini-Series #6: Writing the IEP \(Part 2\)](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: October 24, 2023, 12pm-12:45pm

[Serving on Groups - Understanding & Using Data \(Part 6\)](#)

Presenter: Jan Serak, Serak Consulting

Date: October 26, 2023

HOME LEARNING



[Children's Activity Calendar: October 2023](#)

[Fun Handpicked Fall Books for Kids](#)

[Reading Tips for Parents of Preschoolers/Consejos para padres de niños en preescolar](#)

(Information from **[Colorín Colorado website.](#)**)

Read early and read often.

The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. It is never too early to begin reading to your child. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

Read together every day.

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.

Give everything a name.

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects. For example, "Look at that airplane! Those are the wings of the plane. Why do you think they are called wings?"

Say how much you enjoy reading.

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her. Talk about "story time" as the favorite part of your day.

Read with fun in your voice.

Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices. Ham it up!

Know when to stop.

Put the book away for a while if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

Be interactive.

Discuss what is happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

Read it again and again.

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100th time!

Talk about writing, too.

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

Point out print everywhere.

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you. Ask your child to find a new word on each outing.

**Place Value**

Place value is ultimately the basis of our entire number system. It is an extremely crucial skill that builds the foundation for other core math concepts. Check out these place value videos.

- [Place Value for Kids](#)
- [Fun with Tens and Ones](#)

Tip: If you want to work with place value concepts with your child and don't have interlocking blocks you can make bundles of ten by using a rubber band around things like toothpicks, straws, or craft sticks.

**Travel Wisconsin**

The most colorful time of the year is here! Experience a kaleidoscope of color with your favorite people and make this Fall unforgettable.

[Wisconsin Fall Color Report](#)

[11 Scenic Drives to Experience Fall in Wisconsin](#)

[Wisconsin Fall Hikes with Picture Perfect Views](#)

Fire Prevention Week-October 8-14, 2023

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) campaign,



“Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™,” works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. The good news is you can prevent most cooking fires and burns. Help keep your family safer with some simple but effective tips. On this site, you will find many resources, from videos to printables to help keep your family safe. This is also a good time to replace the batteries in your smoke detectors and [develop or review your family's escape plan.](#)

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

[Children Come First Conference](#)

This conference is full of practical and inspiring content about caring for or working with children, youth, and young adults with social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges. The keynote speaker for this year's Children Come First Conference is New York Times best-selling author, Angeline Boulley. Angeline, an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, will talk about her experiences growing up in the Ojibwe community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Dates: November 6-7, 2023

Location: Kalahari Resort, WI Dells or Virtual

[Wisconsin Special Education Conference- Trauma Sensitive, Educating the Whole Child](#)

Dates: November 9-10, 2023

Location: Kalahari Resort, WI Dells

Keynote speaker Steve Graner, Project Manager for Child Trauma Academy, Neurosequential Model in Education, and Mathew and Mitchell LeBerge, autistic twins, share their experiences and challenges in school. Wisconsin DPI consultants will be holding double session breakout workshops in the morning and afternoon on “Conducting Needs Based Special Education Evaluations” that highlight best practices for conducting comprehensive special education evaluations with a specific focus on the increasing need to understand mental health and social and emotional needs of students. The DPI afternoon workshop will be on “Developing College and Career Ready IEPs” with a focus on documenting present levels of functional performance compared to age and grade level peers, writing IEP goals with clear baselines and levels of attainment, collaborative goal IEP development, and effective progress monitoring procedures. The conference will also provide many other breakout sessions, a special education legal update, and a Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction update from the Special Education Director.

[Building Hearts of Successful Schools Fall 2023 Conference](#)

Date: December 7, 2023 (pre-conference sessions on December 6, 2023)

Location: Glacier Canyon Lodge, WI Dells

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference. [The keynote speaker will be Derek Francis.](#) Derek is an experienced licensed school counselor and the Executive Director of Equity and School Climate for Minneapolis Public Schools with a passion and focus for proactive and equity-based counseling. Derek is dedicated to showing educators that the work you do as an individual can create a welcoming and inclusive school for all.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS)

The Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS) Professional Learning System provides support for educators and families serving students with disability-related needs in the area of social and emotional learning (SEL). The SNS provides learning opportunities with a focus on regulation, social communication, flexibility, resilience, sensory processing, and executive functioning. This year the SNS is offering access to the information in a variety of ways, so no matter how you learn, you can participate. Check out the options:

- **In-Person Learning Events** - These events are held at your local CESA and are from 8:30-3:30. Two of our Areas of Needs are covered in one day.
- **Virtual Learning Events** - These events are 2 hours long and are offered from 9am-11am OR 12:30-2:30 on various days throughout the year. Each event covers one of our Areas of Need.
- **SNS Year Long Cohort (NEW)** - These events happen virtually from 3:30-4:30 on a variety of days and subjects. They are meant to bring people together to chat about implementation of strategies, so come willing to talk or to listen to others.
- **Learning Events, Coaching and Technical Assistance:** Schools, districts, community organizations and individuals (educators, family members, or community members) can access virtual support with the SNS statewide coordinator. This can include requested learning events, coaching, and brainstorming meetings, and can be provided up to 4 times a year.

To find subjects, dates and registration, please visit the [SNS Learning Events Registration webpage](#).

Training for Home Language Interpreters: Supporting Families through the Special Education Process

For those seeking training for home language interpreters for families at IEP meetings, DPI has partnered with WI FACETS, LEAs, and other organizations to develop a one-day training for home language interpreters who interpret for families at IEP meetings. Language interpretation training is a requirement to meet the provisions outlined in DPI's [Providing Language Assistance to Parents](#) guidance document. The training provides increased awareness of state and federal laws, regulations and policies related to the educational rights of students who receive special education through an IEP and who may also be English Language Learners. The training also provides increased knowledge of legal responsibilities and requirements related to translation and interpretation of special education terms and concepts, tools, and resources for interpreters. Finally, the training supports improved skills to handle common ethical considerations while interpreting IEP meetings.

For more information and to register, please choose an option with one of the partnering CESAs below.

In-Person Trainings:

- [CESA #7 – October 12, 2023 \(CESA #7 flyer\)](#)
- [CESA #5 – December 1, 2023 \(CESA #5 flyer\)](#)

Virtual Trainings:

- [February 9, 2023](#) (8am-2pm)
- [February 12, 2023](#) (8am-2pm)
- [February 16, 2023](#) (8am-2pm)

For more information contact Lori Karcher, lkarcher@wifacets.org

ONLINE RESOURCES



[Center for Parent Information and Resources \(CPIR\)](#)

This website has information related to learning disabilities including information about the potential signs of a learning disability, information about the evaluation process, and tips for parents and teachers.

[Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

This site has a variety of technical assistance and best practice resources related to comprehensive special education evaluations in which the characteristics of specific learning disabilities are assessed, including the specific learning disability category criteria worksheet in Wisconsin.

[Wisconsin's Informational Guidebook on Dyslexia and Related Conditions](#)

The informational guidebook discusses screening, instruction and intervention, and resources that can support improved learning for school-aged individuals with characteristics of dyslexia. The audience for the information is broad and includes (but is not limited to) parents and families, educators, interventionists or reading teachers, and educational leaders.

[The National Center for Learning Disabilities \(NCLD\)](#)

The mission of the NCLD is to improve the lives of all people with learning difficulties and disabilities by empowering parents, enabling young adults, transforming schools, and creating policy and advocacy impact. The website has information on learning disabilities resources, as well as a [link](#) to sign up for their newsletter.

[Learning Disabilities Association of America \(LDA\)](#)

LDA provides support to people with learning disabilities, their parents, teachers, and other professionals with information on learning disabilities, practical solutions, and a comprehensive network of resources. These services make LDA a leading resource for information on learning disabilities.

[Understood.org](#)

The goal of the website is to help parents whose children, ages 3–20, are struggling with learning and attention issues. It provides information to empower parents to understand their children's issues and relate to their experiences. With this knowledge, parents can make effective choices that propel their children from simply coping to truly thriving. The website is very parent-friendly and offers links to information related to learning difficulties. Archived webinars are also available.

[AdLit](#)

A national multimedia project offering information and resources to the parents and educators of struggling adolescent readers and writers. Find articles that provide research-based and best-practice information for educators, parents, and others interested in helping young people become better readers and writers.

[Bookshare](#)

Bookshare is an ebook library that makes reading easier. Members can access a huge collection of ebooks and “read their way” with the most customizable ebooks for people with reading barriers. The library has 751,624 titles and is the most extensive collection of accessible ebooks in the world. It includes books for school, career, and reading for pleasure, as well as titles in over 34 languages. Thanks to funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Bookshare is free for all qualified U.S. students and schools.

[Dyscalculia.org](#)

Dyscalculia is a math learning disorder that makes mathematical reasoning and computation difficult, despite

adequate education, average or greater intelligence, and proper motivation. Check the website for a multitude of resources related to this learning disability.

[The International Dyslexia Association \(IDA\)](#)

IDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, scientific, and educational organization dedicated to the study and treatment of learning disabilities, dyslexia, and related language-based learning differences. The purpose of IDA is to pursue and provide the most comprehensive range of information and services that address the full scope of dyslexia and related difficulties in learning to read and write.

[ReadingRockets.org](#)

Reading Rockets provides detailed information about learning to read and strategies for supporting struggling readers at home, at school, and in the community. It offers news, practical information, expert advice, and resources for parents, teachers, tutors, childcare providers, and policy makers.

PBIS – Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

Set the Stage for Positive Behavior

Teach, pre-teach, and re-teach. Children need to learn behavior just like they learn colors and shapes. A quick reminder can help reinforce a developing skill: “When we get in the car, sit up, buckle up, and smile!” For more about PBIS check our [July 2023 newsletter](#).

RESEARCH

Support Receipt: Effect on Postsecondary Success of Students with Learning Disabilities

Newman, L. A., Madaus, J. W., Lalor, A. R., & Javitz, H. S. (2019). Support Receipt: Effect on Postsecondary Success of Students with Learning Disabilities. *Career Development and Transition for Exceptional Individuals*, 42(1), 6–16.

[Read Full Article](#)

In contrast to the increase in college enrollment rates of youth with learning disabilities (LD), graduation rates have remained stagnant and low. Using propensity methods, this study examined the effect of disability-specific and universally available support receipt on the college perseverance and completion of students with LD. Based on secondary analysis of National Longitudinal Transition Study 2 (NLTS2), findings indicate that students who received supports—those available to the full student body and/or disability-specific supports—were more likely to persist in, and successfully complete, 2-year or 4-year college. Implications include that transition staff need to ensure students not only are prepared to seek disability supports once on campus, but that equal emphasis should be placed on helping students access supports available to the full student body.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW SLETTER

Upcoming Newsletter Topics:

November: Emotional Behavioral Disabilities

December: Communication

January: Transition

To submit contributions of articles, events, or resources you may use the [Word document](#). Send submissions to [Wendy Overturf](#). If you are unable to access the form, you may send the information in an email.

Material appropriate for the monthly newsletter include web links to 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.

This monthly update is provided by Wisconsin Family Assistance Center for Education, Training & Support (WI FACETS) to share statewide information regarding parent leadership and family involvement. If you would like to receive this monthly update or if you would like to have your name removed from the distribution list, please email [WI FACETS](mailto:WI.FACETS).

The WI FACETS Family Engagement E-Newsletter can be found online: www.servingongroups.org/newsletter



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