



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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The Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Wisconsin Public Schools

By Wendy Overturf

Did you know that according to data obtained from the 2021-22 school year, released in July 2023, students with disabilities were secluded and/or restrained at a higher percentage rate than students without disabilities? Are you aware of the [Wisconsin law](#) governing the use of seclusion and restraint in Wisconsin public schools?

This is a good time for parents to review the highlights of the law regarding the use of seclusion and restraint in Wisconsin schools. The law prohibits the use of seclusion or physical restraint by school staff except in very limited circumstances where a student's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of students and/or school staff and it is the least restrictive intervention feasible. This law applies to all students, both with and without disabilities. It also applies to private schools when a student is placed there by the school district.

[Read Full Article](#)

UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

(If you missed a training date, you can still get a recording of the webinar by registering.)

[Assessing English Learners when Conducting Comprehensive Special Education Evaluations](#)

Presenters: Sharon Madsen and Tanya Morin, WI DPI

Date: November 1, 2023

[Serving on Groups – The Role of Families & Skills for Serving on Groups \(Parts 7 & 8\)](#)

Presenter: Jan Serak, Serak Consulting

Date: November 2, 2023

[IEP Mini- Series #7 Writing the IEP \(Part 3\)](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: November 7, 2023, 12pm-12:45pm

[How Special Ed Assistants Help Meet the Needs of Students with Disabilities](#)

Presenter: Nakia Wiley, Parent and Community Leader, Madison, WI

Date: November 8, 2023

[Opciones para resolver desacuerdos sobre educación especial](#)

Presenter: Nathaly Silva, WI FACETS

Date: November 9, 2023

[IEP Mini-Series #8: Writing the IEP \(Part 4\)](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: November 21, 2023, 12pm-12:45pm

[The Transition IEP Checklist](#)

Presenter: Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

Date: November 28, 2023

[Reducing Seclusion & Restraint for Students with IEPs](#)

Presenters: Tim Peerenboom and Eva Shaw, WI DPI

Date: November 29, 2023

[Abogacía para padres](#)

Presenter: Nathaly Silva, WI FACETS

Date: November 30, 2023

HOME LEARNING



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

This calendar is full of engaging children's programming ideas for activities, craft projects, and book suggestions that will boost kids' cultural awareness and help them practice kindness and gratitude. Learn about Native American Heritage, take on themed STEM projects, make no-bake donuts, and much more.

Daylight Saving Time Ends

In most states, including Wisconsin, daylight saving time (DST) ends on November 5, 2023. That means it is time to set clocks back one hour. Older children may enjoy this [video](#) about the history of DST.

Selecting Books for Your Child: Finding "Just Right" Books

How can parents help their children find books that are not "too hard" and not "too easy" but instead are "just right?" Here's some advice. [Reading Rockets](#) offers some suggestions about using the 5-finger rule. Remember that even if a book is too difficult for a child to read on their own it still might be a great book for parents to read to them.

WI FACETS also has two videos in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) on the 5-finger rule to help your child find the right books.

Meet Libby

Did you know that you can download books and magazines for free from your public library? All you need is a library card. The app can be downloaded on the App store or on Google Play. Check this [website](#) to see how to get started.



Veterans Day

This day is a federal holiday and is the day our country honors the men and women who have served in the United States military. Older children can write a letter to a veteran to thank them for their service. If you don't know a veteran, the letter could be sent to a Veterans Hospital.

[Addresses for Veterans Hospitals in Wisconsin](#)



Thanksgiving Recipes for Kids

Help your children get excited for Thanksgiving dinner by involving them in the kitchen with these [kid-friendly Thanksgiving recipes!](#) Additionally, assisting with recipes helps children develop their reading and math (measuring) skills.

[9 Fun Facts about Thanksgiving](#)
[Thanksgiving Gratitude Game](#)
[How to Make a Gratitude Jar for Thanksgiving](#)



National Game & Puzzle Week - November 20-26, 2023

After the Thanksgiving holiday, National Game and Puzzle Week emerged to encourage families to spend more time together. It's a way to appreciate your family, spend time with them, and unwind after Thanksgiving and other holiday celebrations. It is a celebration of games and puzzles. Try board games, crossword puzzles, jigsaw puzzles, as well as word games. Strategy games also help brain development. Get started with these [10 kid-friendly card games.](#)

UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

[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, Neuro-sequential 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.

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 #5 – December 1, 2023 \(CESA #5 flyer\)](#)

Virtual Trainings:

- [February 9, 2024](#) (8am-2pm)
- [February 12, 2024](#) (8am-2pm)
- [February 16, 2024](#) (8am-2pm)

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

[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.

[Wisconsin Transition Conference - Diversity, Equity, Disability, and Inclusion!](#)

More information to follow.

Dates: February 15-16, 2024

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin-Save the Date and Call for Proposals

Dates: April 25-27, 2024

Location: Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

Interested in presenting a breakout session at our 35th Annual Conference? [Our Call for Proposals is now open!](#) **The deadline to submit a proposal is November 17th, 2023.**

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 our 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](#).

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

[The Role of Medical and Clinical Information in Special Education Evaluation and IEP Development](#)

Schools and IEP teams often receive information from medical or clinical providers when conducting comprehensive special education evaluations and when developing a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP). To clarify the important role medical and clinical information has in special education evaluation and IEP processes, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction developed this informational resource document.

[New DPI Bulletin on Providing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports to Students with Disabilities and Use of Functional Behavioral Assessments \(FBAs\)](#)

A **NEW** guidance bulletin was released in **September 2023** with a focus on the legal requirements related to the provision of positive behavioral interventions and supports and the use of functional behavioral assessments for students receiving special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Positive behavioral interventions and supports must be considered any time an IEP team determines a student's behavior interferes with their learning or the learning of others. In addition, an FBA is required under certain circumstances and is an evidence-based tool to address a student's unique disability-related needs regardless of a student's disability category.

ONLINE RESOURCES



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

Find information about the definition, characteristics, causes, and frequencies of emotional and behavioral disorders, as well as brief information related to specific disorders. Links to numerous other resources are also included on the website. This is the [link](#) to this information in Spanish.

[Emotional Behavioral Disability | 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 emotional behavioral disabilities are assessed. The website also includes the emotional behavioral disability category criteria worksheet in Wisconsin.

[Inclusive Strategies to Address Behavioral Needs for Students with IEPs | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#)

This professional learning series provides resources and strategies to help adults address the behavioral needs of students with individualized education programs (IEPs). It is designed to assist adults in the development of adaptive mindsets, foundational strategies, and system features to support day-to-day interactions across educational environments between adults and students who receive special education services through an IEP.

[Questions and Answers: Addressing the Needs of Children with Disabilities and IDEA's Discipline Provisions \(from U.S Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services\)](#)

This updated document from July 2022 includes additional questions and answers that address topics that have arisen as the field continues to carry out the discipline provisions of IDEA and its implementing regulations.

[Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#)

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) [is an evidence-based](#), tiered framework for supporting *students'* behavioral, academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. When implemented with fidelity, [PBIS improves](#) social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate.

[Youth Suicide Prevention](#)

Visit the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's website for Information and resources related to youth suicide prevention.

[Wisconsin Family Ties](#)

Wisconsin Family Ties (WFT) is a statewide nonprofit organization run by families for families with children and adolescents impacted by social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges. The [WFT Facebook page](#) has links to a variety of resources related to emotional behavioral disabilities.

[Anxiety and Depression Association of America \(ADAA\)](#)

ADAA is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention, treatment, and cure of anxiety, depressive, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma-related disorders through education, practice, and research. Their mission focuses on improving the quality of life for children and adults affected with these disorders.

[Behavior, Classroom Management, and Discipline](#)

This is a link to a webpage from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. It includes [frequently asked questions](#) related to school discipline, including suspension and expulsion.

[IEP Publications & Other Resources Wisconsin | WI FACETS](#)

WI FACETS, Wisconsin Family Ties and Disability Rights Wisconsin collaborated to develop a [brochure](#) explaining Seclusion and Restraint which can be downloaded from the WI FACETS website.

[International OCD \(Obsessive Compulsive Disorder\) Foundation \(IOCDF\)](#)

The mission of the IOCDF is to help those affected by obsessive compulsive disorder and related disorders to live full and productive lives. There is information and resources on the website specifically intended for parents and children.

PBIS – Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports

To truly change behavior, appropriate behavior must be:

Taught

Modeled

Practiced

Acknowledged (rewarded)

For more about PBIS check our [July 2023 newsletter](#).

RESEARCH

Effect of Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) on Disciplinary Exclusions for Students with and Without Disabilities

Grasley-Boy, N. M., Gage, N. A., & Lombardo, M. (2019). Effect of SWPBIS on Disciplinary Exclusions for Students with and Without Disabilities. *Exceptional Children*, 86(1), 25–39. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0014402919854196>

[Read Full Article](#)

School leaders react to inappropriate behaviors by excluding students, despite research suggesting an association with poor student outcomes. Students with disabilities are frequently subjected to these practices.

One framework that has been proposed to reduce the reliance on reactive discipline procedures is schoolwide positive behavior interventions and supports (SWPBIS). In this study, we replicated several state-level quasi-experimental studies with discipline data from California. Using propensity score matching, we compared 544 schools implementing SWPBIS with fidelity and 544 schools that had never been trained. We found statistically significantly fewer out-of-school suspensions and days missed due to out-of-school suspensions across all students. Students with disabilities were statistically significantly less likely to be sent to alternative settings due to behavior in schools implementing SWPBIS with fidelity, with an effect size of -0.65 . These results replicate and extend prior findings.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEW SLETTER

Upcoming Newsletter Topics:

December: Communication

January: Transition

February: Intellectual Disabilities

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](#).

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



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WI FACETS | www.wifacets.org



WI FACETS | 600 W. Virginia St., Suite 501, Milwaukee, WI 53204

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