



## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

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### Preparing for Health Care Transition

By Wendy Overturf

[Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#), Other Health Impairment (OHI) is one of the 13 disability categories that can qualify a child for special education services. [Wisconsin Administrative code](#) defines Other Health Impairment as meaning “having limited strength, vitality or alertness, due to chronic or acute health problems. The term includes but is not limited to a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis, asthma, sickle cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead poisoning, leukemia, diabetes, or acquired injuries to the brain caused by internal occurrences or degenerative conditions, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.”

By the very nature of the disability category “Other Health Impairment,” youth who meet the criteria for this category often have chronic medical conditions that require ongoing care into adulthood. Health care transition (HCT) is the process of preparing youth and young adults for the transition to a healthy adulthood. For many, this means moving from a pediatric to an adult model of health care. As they leave pediatric systems and enter adult health care, they may face challenges such as:

- New care providers unfamiliar with their history
- More personal responsibility for managing their health
- Changes in insurance coverage
- Complex care coordination across multiple providers

The transition from youth to adult health care can be a complex process, and according to this [research brief](#), only 25% of all youth and less than 35% of youth with special health care needs in Wisconsin receive support. Effective transition planning helps ensure continuity of care, improved health outcomes, and greater independence.

Transitioning to adult health care is a process, not a single event. Under IDEA, a [postsecondary transition plan \(PTP\)](#) is required to start by age **16** (Age 14 in Wisconsin) and be included in the IEP. Goals for health care transition can be included in this plan and through IEP goals. While the goals are determined by the IEP team, the following resources give examples of goals related to healthcare transitioning:

- [Embedding Health Goals in the IEP](#)
- [Sample Goals for the Health Care Transition Readiness Assessment for Students with an IEP](#)
- [What Does Health Have to Do with Transition? Everything!](#)

Families and students should also know about Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. [Section 504](#) requires post-secondary institutions that receive federal funding to provide reasonable accommodations to a person who has a documented disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) highlights the requirement to provide [“Reasonable Accommodations in the Workplace.”](#)

**There are many more resources related to health care transition that may be of value.**

#### [Wisconsin Youth Health Care Transition Initiative](#)

Tim Markle, Director of the Youth Health Care Initiative, stated that their primary focus is on all youth with special health care needs and disabilities — so all kids with IEPs and most with 504s. However, he also mentioned that the resources and ideas are helpful to ALL adolescents moving into adulthood.

#### [Preparing for Life as an Adult: Transition Planning for Youth](#)

This guide covers many important areas related to transitioning to adulthood. However, it specifically addresses health care transition starting on page 21.

#### [How do I transition medical care from pediatric to adult providers?](#)

This site has links to several articles related to health care transition including [“Transition Health Plan for Youth with Disabilities and their Families.”](#) This is a health care assessment of current skills a child has, and also helps parents and the child understand what skills and knowledge may be needed as they transition to adult health care.

#### [Information for Wisconsin School Nurses](#)

This webpage offers tools, resources, and trainings to help Wisconsin School Nurses provide best-practice transition care to their patients with developmental disabilities or special healthcare needs. While this website was developed for school nurses, there are many valuable informational articles that families may find useful.

#### [Got Transition](#)

Got Transition® is the national resource center on health care transition (HCT). Its aim is to improve the transition from pediatric to adult health care using evidence-driven strategies for clinicians and other health care professionals; public health programs; payers and plans; youth and young adults; and parents and caregivers.

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## UPCOMING WI FACETS EVENTS

### [IEP 1: Special Education Basics \(Pre-recorded\)](#)

**Date:** August 19, 2025

**Presenter:** Ann Zielke, WI FACETS

### [An Inclusive College Experience: The Cutting Edge Program](#)

**Date:** August 20, 2025

## [Lista de verificación del IEP: Listos para el nuevo año escolar](#)

Date: August 28, 2025

Presenter: Nathaly Silva, WI FACETS

# HOME LEARNING



### [Children's Activity Calendar: August 2025](#)

August is the perfect time to spark wonder with engaging hands-on activities and fresh books that will set everyone up for success before the start of another school year. Remember that many of the books featured on the calendar can be found at your local library or through the library digital database.

**Back to School Month:** Get ready for a new school year with Loren Long's [The Yellow Bus](#), a picture book about a school bus and all she feels carrying passengers.

### [Early Literacy Activity Calendar: August 2025](#)

Early Literacy Activities — August 2025: Activities, Books, and More!

### [Four weeks of summer learning activities for kindergarten through fifth grade](#)

Greatschools.org designed four-week summer learning calendars for kindergartners to fifth graders to help you prepare your child for next year. Their advice is to keep summer learning sessions short, fun, and low-pressure. Be sure to reward your child's work with enthusiasm.

### [Simon Kids](#)

Read & Learn with Simon Kids is a video series hosted on the Simon Kids YouTube channel. Parents and educators can find videos by Simon & Schuster authors and illustrators including read alouds, drawing tutorials, and more. Some of the books are read in their entirety. Others are just an excerpt to increase your child's curiosity to read more. Many of those books can be found at your local library.

### [14 ways to help older kids build motor skills](#)

There are many activities to help children develop [fine](#) and [gross motor skills](#). But a lot of them are aimed at younger children. Tweens and teens may prefer these 14 fun activities



### Reading for Reluctant Readers

Engaging reluctant readers during the summer



### Writing & Language Activities

"Dear Future Teacher" Letters

requires a combination of creativity, flexibility, and personalization. The goal is to make reading fun, meaningful, and low-pressure so that it becomes a habit rather than a task. Here are several strategies to inspire even the most hesitant readers.

- Let them choose what they read.
- Incorporate reading into everyday life—such things as menus, recipes, and game instructions.
- Integrate reading with their favorite activities. Perhaps pair reading a book and watching the movie version

Have your child write a letter to their new teacher introducing themselves.

Include interests, summer activities, and what they look forward to learning.

#### **“Summer Memory Book”**

Create a journal or booklet where your child writes about their favorite summer memories. Encourage their use of illustrations, captions, and photos.

**Math Read Alouds** - Help reinforce math skills:

- [“Ten Black Dots”](#)
- [“The Grapes of Math”](#)
- [“How Big is a Foot?”](#)

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## UPCOMING STATE EVENTS

### [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 regulations 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 and resources related to legal responsibilities and ethical considerations for translation and interpretation of special education terms and concepts.

**In-person trainings are scheduled on the following dates:**

**August 14, 2025** – [Delavan/Darien School District](#) – [Registration Information](#)

**October 9, 2025** – CESA 5 – [Registration Information](#)

**March 13, 2026** – [CESA 1](#) - [Registration Information](#)

**To find out how to partner with WI FACETS to bring this training to your area contact Lori Karcher, [lkarcher@wifacets.org](mailto:lkarcher@wifacets.org)**

### [Planning for the Future](#)

Planning for the Future is a one-day workshop designed to help families create a life plan to help ensure the future needs of their loved one are met. Featured speakers include Attorney Heather A. Wilson J.D., who will speak on different types of financial trusts, and Ron Konkol, who will speak about social security benefits. Jan Greenberg PhD., Professor Emeritus of Social Work will also be a speaker. All participants will receive a free Life Plan Workbook.

**Date:** Saturday, September 27th, 2025

**Location:** Madison, WI

**Registration Closes:** August 29

Scholarships are available through NAMI Wisconsin for those in need, please reach out [programs@namiwisconsin.org](mailto:programs@namiwisconsin.org).

### [State Superintendent’s Conference on Special Education & Pupil Services Leadership](#)

**Date:** October 1, 2025

**Location:** Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells, WI

This conference provides local directors of special education and pupil services and other interested parties

with opportunities to network with colleagues from around the state as well as consultants and administrators from the Division for Learning Support at the Department of Public Instruction. Presentations will include information about current issues and changes in state and federal policy related to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and students facing other challenges to success in school.

**\$100 registration closes on Wednesday, September 24, 2025.** After this date, walk-in or late registration is \$125.

### **Self-Determination by Design: Your Life, Your Way**

**Dates:** October 20 - 22, 2025

**Location:** Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI

For more information, visit <https://sdc.wi-bpdd.org/>

### **2025 Children Come First Conference-Save the Dates**

**Dates:** November 3rd-4th, 2025

**Location:** Kalahari Resort • Wisconsin Dells, WI

As one of the largest and longest-running family-driven events in the state, this conference is dedicated to addressing the pressing needs of children and families living with mental and behavioral health issues.

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## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### **The Ultimate Guide to Air Travel for an Individual who has a Disability**

Are you planning on taking a trip this summer with someone who has a disability? Or perhaps you are planning one during the Thanksgiving or winter holidays. Traveling by plane is one of the fastest ways to get to your destination. But crowded airports, long waits at security checkpoints, and baggage restrictions can make flying challenging when you have a disability. Knowing what you are entitled to and not being afraid to ask for what you're entitled to will make the entire flight process less stressful. With the help of legislation and strong advocacy, airlines, and airports are making flying more accessible for travelers with disabilities. This guide provides many of the regulations that airlines need to follow as well as some of the important steps you must take to ensure your trip goes smoothly.

### **Fear-less Triple P Online**

Learn how to spot the early signs of anxiety in children and how to best help them develop their own toolkit of coping skills. This online parenting program is full of proven strategies to help give a better understanding of anxiety so the cycle can be broken in a safe and gradual way. It is free for all caregivers and parents in Wisconsin.

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## ONLINE RESOURCES: OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENT



### **Center for Parent Information and Resources (CPIR)**

This website has links to information related to incidence, characteristics, diagnosis and treatment, and school services related to children who have other health impairments. The website also includes links to many other resources related to specific disorders.

### [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction \(WI DPI\)](#)

The Wisconsin DPI website has information related to the criteria for the disability category of Other Health Impairment (OHI). In addition to meeting the OHI criteria, the IEP team must show a need for specially designed instruction. The website also has links to additional medical and health information that may be of interest. This site also has a link for more information on the Comprehensive Special Education Evaluation process.

### [FINDING YOUR WAY– A Navigation Guide for Wisconsin Families Who Have Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs and Disabilities](#)

The Wisconsin Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program developed this guide in partnership with the Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities to assist families who may have concerns or questions about their child's development or have recently received a diagnosis of a special health care need or disability. It provides brief descriptions of programs, services, and systems of support available in Wisconsin. The site also has contact information to learn more about these and other resources.

### [Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs \(CYSHCN\)](#)

CYSHCN 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.

### [Wisconsin Wayfinder: Essential Children's Resources](#)

Wisconsin Wayfinder supports families of children with delays, disabilities, special health care needs, and mental health conditions. Children's resource guides are available to assist families, caregivers, professionals, and organizations in finding a wide array of supports and services available through the Children's Resource Network. Their services are free and confidential. Call (877) 947-2929 or use the [contact form](#).

### [The Tourette Association of America Wisconsin Chapter](#)

The Tourette Association of America Wisconsin Chapter is a volunteer led, nonprofit organization supporting the needs of individuals and families affected by Tourette Syndrome and Tic Disorders. They are committed to raising public awareness and fostering social acceptance; advancing scientific understanding, treatment options and care; and educating professionals to better serve the needs of children, adults and families challenged by Tourette and Tic Disorders. They also advocate for public policies and services that promote positive school, work, and social environments.

### [Epilepsy Foundation](#)

This website has information for parents and professionals related to epilepsy disorders. It also has a link to a ["toolbox"](#) and provides information on forms and information parents may want to have available in case of an emergency. Information about other support groups and services is also on this site.

### [Living with Spina Bifida](#)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has programs and research which may help improve the quality of life and encourage full participation at every age for those living with spina bifida.

### [Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder \(CHADD\)](#)

CHADD is a national nonprofit organization that improves the lives of people affected by ADHD through education, advocacy, and support. CHADD is in the forefront in creating and implementing programs and services in response to the needs of adults and families affected by ADHD through collaborative partnerships and advocacy, including training for parents and K-12 teachers, hosting educational webinars and workshops, being an informative clearinghouse for the latest evidence-based ADHD information, and providing information specialists to support the ADHD community.

### [Family Voices of Wisconsin](#)

Family Voices of Wisconsin promotes a system of comprehensive health and community supports based on

fundamental principles that ensure the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities and their families. This agency's role is to advocate for the inclusion of these principles in the design, implementation, and delivery of supports and services throughout Wisconsin.

### [Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program](#)

The first three years are the most important building blocks of a child's future. The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program is an early intervention special education program that supports the growth and development of children under the age of 3 who have delays or disabilities.

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## RESEARCH

### **School-based Healthcare Can Address Children's Unmet Needs: Models, Evidence, and Policies**

Komisarow, S. (2022). School-Based Healthcare Can Address Children's Unmet Health Needs: Models, Evidence, and Policies. *Hunt Institute*.

#### [Read Full Article](#)

Addressing the unmet physical and mental health needs of school-aged children in the U.S. has moved to the forefront of the emerging policy conversation about effective, school-based strategies to support students. Although some new and unique challenges regarding the physical and mental health of school-aged children can be directly attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, policymakers and educators have long grappled with finding, funding, and implementing effective strategies to support the physical and mental health of school-aged children to promote their learning, growth, and development.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Newsletter Topics:

**September: Assistive Technology**

**October: Learning Disabilities**

**November: Emotional Behavioral 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](#).



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