

# Examples of Positive Parent Supports and IEP Components From Other States

Kim Siegel  
Office of the Lt. Governor  
[kim.siegel@state.de.us](mailto:kim.siegel@state.de.us)

# Informing Parents

- ▶ 13 of the states we looked at provide parent guides to special education of varying lengths and complexity
  - ▶ Common components include:
    - Glossaries of terms and/or acronyms
    - Listings of community resources
    - Explanations of legal rights
    - Sample forms
    - methods of dispute resolution
  - ▶ Florida and Illinois include sample record-keeping forms and North Dakota includes an IEP parent checklist from [brightfutures.org](http://brightfutures.org)
  - ▶ Illinois offers parents of children with hearing impairments a statewide network of parent facilitators and connects parents with others who may be resources to them
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# Parent Centers and Advocates

- ▶ Arizona offers a joint parent training program conducted by their department's Parent Information Network and local advocacy organization.
  - An Arizona district offers an IEP Partners program to connect parents to other parents with more experience in the IEP process
- ▶ In Utah, two districts host at least one staff member of the Utah Parent Center on site.
- ▶ In the Portland, Oregon school district, parents can access an IEP partner through their local PIC by contacting the special education division's parent liaison

# Parent Centers and Advocates

- ▶ The Dallas Independent School District in Texas offers a Parent Intake Center with both walk-in and appointment hours to increase parental involvement, respond to questions or disputes regarding their child's education, plan transitions, and offer support groups and other services to benefit parents.
  - ▶ Dispute resolution: Delaware is one of several states with a facilitation process to address potentially difficult IEP meetings. Massachusetts offers a Bureau of Special Education Appeals for families to pursue a new due process hearing when not satisfied with the results of one pursued through DOE. The Department may not overrule the BSEA.
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# IEP Components and Practices

- ▶ Some states include within the forms plain language explanations of the IEP sections (NE, OR, PA, VA, WA) or cite the law that the section stems from (NE, NJ, TX)
- ▶ Additional parent input: Oregon sends a questionnaire before the IEP meeting to gain information from the parent perspective. Massachusetts asks what their vision for the student is.
- ▶ A number of states include support for school personnel, such as professional development, as a related service.
  - Massachusetts, Vermont, and Wyoming include supports to parents as well, and Texas does so for autism families

# IEP Components and Practices

- ▶ Some states go beyond training, employment, education, and independent living in transition to include things like community involvement (MA, MN, ND, NH, NJ, VA, WY), activities of daily living (CT, MD, MN), and recreation (ND)
- ▶ Several states offer extensive options for how it would be measured and detail the method and frequency of informing parents of that progress. For example, Ohio offers 11 options for measuring progress and five methods for informing parents for each IEP goal.
- ▶ A number of states include requirements or suggestions for functional behavior analyses and/or behavior intervention plans within the IEP when discussing student behaviors that can impede others' learning (CT, GA, NH, NJ, PA, TX [autism only], WA)

# IEP Components and Practices

- ▶ Pennsylvania includes a section on supporting gifted students with disabilities
  - ▶ Indiana includes both primary and secondary disabilities and requires an explanation on why the student received each classification
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