

Parent's Perspective

What is the First Step to Effective Communication?

Start at the School Level—If you have concerns about any aspect of your child's special education program, it is important to discuss those concerns with your child's teacher, special education teacher, school counselor, or principal. This can be accomplished informally through a conference, or you may at any time ask for an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting to review your child's program.*

◆ Start the conversation with what you know:

My child doesn't seem to be meeting her goals....

I am concerned about my child's fine motor skills....

I am worried about my child's ability to take the PSSA , even with accommodations

◆ Ask questions:

Does the school staff see some of the same issues?

What progress is my child making toward his/her goals?

◆ Discuss options:

Share your proposed solution(s) to the problem.

Work with school staff to determine the next step.

Work collaboratively to meet the needs of your child.

◆ Have your concerns been heard? Have your questions been answered?

Is your child's program designed for educational benefit? Are there indicators of academic improvement?

If you are still concerned and see no improvement, you can take your issues to the district level.

*For more detailed information, please see the Pennsylvania Parent Guide to Special Education for School Age Children. To request a copy, go to www.pattan.net or call 800-441-3215. Article adapted from "Using Effective Communication to Ensure Your Child's Success in School".

The *Parent Support Center* of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit
(814)836-0870, ext 5258 or
(800) 677-5610, ext 5258
www.iu5.org/parentsupport
michele_kulesza@iu5.org



Dear Parents,

The Parent Support Center is staffed by myself, Michele Kulesza. I am a parent of a child with special needs and can serve as a facilitator between parents and educators. I have been through many of the same concerns that other parents of children with special needs have been through.

If you need support or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Parent Support Center, (814) 836-0870, ext. 5258 or toll-free (800) 677-5610, ext 5258.

Sincerely,

Michele Kulesza

It is the policy of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit not to discriminate on the basis of age, religion, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or non-job related disability in the admission or access to, or in the provision of services, programs, or employment in compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. For information relevant to this policy, contact Dr. Dennis Valone, 504 Coordinator and ADA Coordinator, or Dr. Marjorie A. Wallace, Title IX Coordinator, 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412; Phone (814) 734-5610, or TDD (814) 734-1098.



**Advocacy & resources for citizens with
cognitive, intellectual and developmental disabilities**

**The Arc of Pennsylvania, The Arc of Erie and The Arc of Crawford County
Presents**

**What's New in Special Education?
Chapter 14 Revisions**

Sponsored by: The Arc of Pennsylvania, in partnership with PaTTAN, Pennsylvania Department of Education/Bureau of Special Education and support from Intermediate Unit #5

What: What's new to the Chapter 14 regulations and how it will affect you and your student; What inclusion looks like and other valuable resources

Who: Parents, family members, advocates, supports coordinators, teachers, paraprofessionals, providers, guardians

When: Tuesday, April 7, 2009 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Where: Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5, Conference Room B, 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, Pa. 16412, phone- 814- 734-5610

To Register: Call The Arc of Crawford County, 814-724-7346 or email Kathy Lutz at selfadv@roadrunner.com



**Students with Disabilities Preparing for
Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and
Responsibilities**

U. S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights pamphlet on the rights and responsibilities of students with disabilities who are preparing to attend postsecondary schools, and the obligations of a post-secondary school to provide academic adjustments, including auxiliary aids and services, to ensure the school does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The publication's citation: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities*, Washington, D.C., 2007. **To order copies of this publication**, go online at www.edpubs.org or call 1-877-433-7827.