

# The WSPEI Connector

August 2025

---

## Communicating Information and Resources for Wisconsin Families and Educators

As many of you already have scholars back in the classroom—or are gearing up for their return—we hope you had a restful and enjoyable summer!

Here at The WPSEI Project, we've been busy preparing a great lineup of statewide, virtual workshops and networking events for the fall. Many of these already have flyers included in this issue, and the rest will be shared with you over the next few weeks through this newsletter mailing list. Thank you for your continued patience and support!



## Exciting News!

Throughout the year, our regional WSPEI staff will be bringing events and resources closer to home for families and educators. One of these opportunities is happening in Antigo on **August 25th**—don't miss it! Check out the flyer below for all the details!

In this edition, you'll also find the latest the WI FACETS Newsletter, along with details about upcoming statewide conferences and learning opportunities.

As always, thank you for reading!

---

# The WSPEI Project Statewide Training and Networking Events

---

All statewide WSPEI events are FREE, will be held virtually on ZOOM, and are open to families, educators, and community agency members.

Sign up for our [email list](#) for the monthly newsletter and event notifications.

Check our [website](#) frequently for updates.

[Calendar of Events](#)

## SAVE THE DATES!

**\*\*Some information flyers and registration are linked in descriptions. Remaining flyers will be available late-August, 2025 and will be sent out via this newsletter subscription list.\*\***

### Topic-Specific Workshops

#### The Family's Role in the CCR-IEP Process

This 3-session workshop is aimed at equipping parents and other family members with knowledge and confidence to actively engage in the IEP process. For families who have a child between the ages of 3-21 who has an IEP. Educators are encouraged to participate as well!

- 10/21/25 & 10/28/25 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

#### Families As Partners

This series of four educational and leadership sessions for families is focused on building relationships with school staff and other supportive individuals in order to enhance student outcomes.

- 10/6/25, 10/13/25, 10/20/25 & 10/27/25 | 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

#### **\*\*NEW offerings!\*\***

#### Cooking Up Success: The Recipe for a Great Transition Plan

Transition planning is a key part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process and, in Wisconsin, it begins at age 14. This workshop will give families the **essential tools to prepare for meaningful transition** conversations with their child's IEP team. You'll explore the WiTransition App and learn how it can support planning, discover helpful resources, and connect with agencies that play an important role in your child's journey. Just like every great recipe, each child's plan is unique, seasoned with their individual strengths, preferences, interests, and needs.

**Come cook up a successful future with us!**

#### **A Seat at the Table: What It Really Means to Be on a Committee, Board, or Council**

In this 3-part series using the Serving on Groups curriculum, participants will: **Learn** about different types of groups and their purpose, and structure in a school setting; **Assess** and grow their own personal strengths, knowledge, and skills for effective participation in a group(including IEP meetings); **Receive** a printed training manual.

- 10/9/25, 10/16/25, 10/23/25 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

## Navigating Special Education Resources

Participants in this workshop will gain fundamental information and knowledge about special education, as well as explore resources and specific tools and strategies to use when collaborating with school staff to support and advocate for their child's needs.

Session 1 Topics: Acronyms/Terms; Birth-3; Pre-School; Communication

Session 2 Topics: Evaluation Reports; IEPs; Transition(PTP); General Information.

- 11/6/25 & 11/13/25 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am

## Partnering with Schools on Behavior and Discipline for Students with IEPs

This workshop will help participants understand how all policies apply to all children, including those with disabilities; build awareness of IDEA protections for students with disabilities in regard to discipline; and understand dispute resolution options in Wisconsin.

- December 4, 2025 | 9:00 am-11:00 am

[Click to REGISTER](#)

## Finding Children with Disabilities: What School Districts, Families, and Agencies Need to Know

This workshop will help participants understand the responsibility of school districts to locate, identify, and evaluate all children suspected of having a disability under IDEA and the Child Find Law. And define the rights of families if they believe their child may have a disability requiring special education services.

- 1/ 20/26 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

OR

- 1/ 22/26 | 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

## Continuous Monthly Network and Learning Opportunities

### Family Support Community

A monthly learning opportunity designed for families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. These meetings occur on the **second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 pm -8:00 pm** and the **second Thursday of the month from 12:00 -1:00 pm**.

Our supportive community meetings provide valuable learning opportunities and mutual support. They take place from **September through May**.

[Click to REGISTER](#)

### Family, Youth and Community Engagement Network

(formally known as the Family Engagement Community of Practice & Learning)

A learning community for educators, administrators, statewide agencies, community partners, and families focusing on family engagement-specific topics.

Meetings are held on the **third Wednesday of every month, September to May, 4:00-5:30 pm**.

[Click to REGISTER](#)

## Book Discussions

### Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher's Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success

*Karen Mapp, Ilene Carver,, and Jessica Lander.*

In **Powerful Partnerships**, the goal is to strengthen family engagement practices and, in doing so, strengthen classroom success for all students. This work is incredibly impactful. In order for you to achieve the best possible results, one important factor is the strong ties you build with the



families and community members that your school serves. Those strong partnerships are important to maximize student learning.

- 9/22/25 & 9/29/25 | 4 pm - 5:30 pm

[Click to REGISTER](#)



## IEP Bootcamp - Antigo

**IN-PERSON, FREE EVENT!**

[IEP Bootcamp - Empowering Families in the IEP Process](#)

- A no-cost learning event for families of students with IEPs, community agencies, and educators Monday, August 25 th, 5 pm-7 pm
- Antigo Public Library 617 Clermont St
- Antigo, WI 54409
- Contact: Heidi Lehman Family-School Partnership Coordinator, CESAs 9/10

[hlehman@cesa9.org](mailto:hlehman@cesa9.org) OR call: 715.360.2656

[Click to Register](#)

### Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction News

#### Reading Advisory Council Accepting Applications

We invite community members from across Wisconsin to apply for the [State Superintendent's Reading Advisory Council](#). This group is dedicated to strengthening literacy learning and ensuring every student has the opportunity to thrive.

We welcome a wide range of voices, including educators, students, parents and caregivers, school and district leaders, librarians, educator preparation representatives, and other education partners.

**DPI aims to maintain a council that reflects the diversity of our state, including differences in race, gender, geographic location, and approaches to reading instruction to support comprehensive literacy efforts across Wisconsin.**

We are especially interested in applicants who reflect the diversity of our state, including diversity in race, culture, geography, school size, and approaches to literacy. We strongly encourage individuals from communities that have historically been underrepresented in statewide education decisions to apply. Your perspectives and lived experiences are essential as we work together to build more inclusive and effective literacy practices. Whether you are new to this work or have years of experience, your voice matters.

Council meetings will be held virtually the second Monday evening of each month, from 4:00-5:30 PM, October 2025 through June 2026.

If you're interested in contributing to this important effort, please complete [the application](#) form by Friday, September 5, 2025.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to help shape the future of literacy in Wisconsin.



---

## WI FACETS

WI FACETS is Wisconsin's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) funded through the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. WI FACETS has a large variety of resources, upcoming trainings, and webinar recordings to help families navigate special education. Check out the WI FACETS [Training Calendar](#), WI FACETS [Webinar Recordings](#) as well as WI FACETS [resources webpages](#).

This month's newsletter provides information and resources regarding the disability category of "Other Health Impairment".

[August 2025 Family Engagement Newsletter - English](#)

[August 2025 Family Engagement Newsletter - Spanish](#)

---

## Upcoming Statewide Events and Conferences

### [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.

### **Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference**

**Dates:** December 10th-11th, 2025

**Location:**

Glacier Canyon Conference Center - Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells

Conference | Thursday, December 11, 2025 featuring Keynote Dr. Andr  a Michel

*Educators Creating Safe Classrooms and Schools* (\$150.00)

[Link to register](#)

Session topics you don't want to miss!

Student mental health & anxiety



- Restorative practices & trauma-informed leadership
- Youth substance use & prevention
- Educator wellness & resilience
- Student engagement & digital dilemmas

Visit conference website for breakout session details.

---

## Family Voices of Wisconsin

### Wisconsin Family Leadership Institute (WiFLi)

[WiFLi Virtual Learning Series](#) will kick off Wednesday, September 24. This 6-part series is intended to sharpen your skills and offer new insights into advocacy opportunities that are available all around us. Each 60-to-90-minute session is packed with speakers, exercises, discussion and planning for your own advocacy.

**Note: You must be a parent or primary caregiver of a child with a disability/health care need age 21 and younger.**

This is a great opportunity to connect with other parents and begin the process of advocacy beyond your own family by improving the programs and systems families depend upon. These sessions are provided at **no cost to families** through Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs funding.

[WiFLi Application](#)

---

## Parents United

### 2025-2026 FREE PROGRAMS

This non-profit community-based organization provides regular informational workshops featuring experts presenting a wide range of topics relative to students with disabilities and their families. There are both in-person and virtual workshops. Parents and families from across the state of Wisconsin are welcome to register and attend these workshops.

Check out the [BROCHURE](#) for workshop information, dates and registration!

---

## Connect with WSPEI!

Are you looking for information, resources or support about  
Special Education and IEPs from WSPEI?

Information provided on this form will help us connect you to your local  
WSPEI Family-School Partnership Coordinator:  
[Click this link for Support Request Form](#)

---



## The WSPEI Project

Email: [wspei@cesa12.org](mailto:wspei@cesa12.org)

Website: [wspei.org](http://wspei.org)

The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (CFDA #84.027A) acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the development of all products or publications and for the continued support of this federally-funded contract program.



The WSPEI Project

Contact

Subscribe