

# Happy New Year!

The WSPEI CONNECTOR - January 2025

## Communicating Information and Resources for Wisconsin Families and Educators

❄️Happy January!❄️

Welcome to our latest monthly newsletter. Thank you for your patience waiting for this issue to come out.

We hope you had a safe and fun holiday season!



### With a new year comes new information and resources!

This month's newsletter features valuable information from the Department of Public Instruction, including details about Public School Open Enrollment, which starts next month. We also share some recently announced Wisconsin Conferences.

If you haven't had a chance to register for or attend one of our wonderful WSPEI Workshops, now is the perfect time! Learning together during these chilly months is sure to bring inspiration and warmth to your heart!

~The WSPEI Project Team



Imagine if fire extinguishers were full of snow.

Imagine the fun we could have.

~Neil Hilborn

# WSPEI Workshop, Book Discussions and Networking Opportunities

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## REGISTRATION is Open for Winter Workshops

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

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Webpage to link directly to Registration Forms](#)

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## Winter 2025 Workshops

### TOPIC SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS

#### Engaging & Supporting Families Through Groups & Networks

A 4-part workshop series for families of a child with an IEP, Community Agency Members, and Educators using the Serving on Groups curriculum:

- Fridays from 9:00 - 11:00 am January 17, January 31, February 14 & February 28, 2025

Participants will:

- Learn how to form a group, and identify a purpose and structures to ensure the group works well together.
- Assess and grow their strengths, knowledge, and skills for effective participation and leadership within a group.

[Click Here for flier with more details and registration link](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION FORM](#)

#### 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.

- Two sessions on Mondays 4:00 p.m. -5:30 p.m.
- Session 1 Topics: Acronyms/Terms; Birth-3; Pre-School; Communication
- Session 2 Topics: Evaluation Reports; IEPs; Transition(PTP); General Information.
- Session dates: 2/3/25 & 2/10/25

[Click Here for flier with more details and registration link](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR REGISTRATION FORM](#)

REGISTER for these Community Networks ANYTIME!

### MONTHLY LEARNING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Family Support Community

A monthly learning opportunity designed for families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. Two meeting options are available.

- The first Wednesday of the month from 7-8 pm: [REGISTER FOR WEDNESDAY FSC HERE](#)

- The first Thursday of every month from 12-1:00 pm: [REGISTER FOR THURSDAY FSC HERE](#)
- Our Community meetings provide valuable learning opportunities and mutual support.
- These meetings take place from September through May.

Link to:

[FLYER and Registration](#)

[Flyer in Spanish](#)

### **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 the third Wednesday of every month September to May, 4:00-5:30 pm.

[Click Here to Register for CoPL](#)

[FLYER with scheduled dates](#)

[Flyer in Spanish](#)

### **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.

- Discussions will be held on Wednesday afternoons from 4-5:30.
- January 29, February 12 & February 26, 2025

[Link to flier with details and registration](#)

[Link to Registration Form](#)

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## **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](#).

The January Newsletter highlights Transition Resources and the importance of the Summary of Performance Requirement upon graduation from high school.

[WI FACETS January Newsletter - English](#)

[WI FACETS January Newsletter - Spanish](#)

# Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

## Newsworthy Information from the Department of Public Instruction

### 1. Council on Special Education Public Forum Summary of Comments 10-09-2024:

- Each year, the Wisconsin Council on Special Education holds an annual Public Forum. The public forum is an opportunity for family members, educators, and community members to comment on the educational needs of students who receive special education through an Individualized Education Program. The Council uses input from the public forum to guide recommendations to the State Superintendent for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction as well as set priorities for future council meeting topics and special meetings.
- The document summarizing public comments from the October 9, 2024 Public Forum can be found at this [LINK](#).

### 2. A Dear Colleague letter from the Office of Special Education:

The [Using Functional Behavioral Assessments to Create Supportive Learning Environments](#) guidance focuses on evidence-based practices to support students, with or without disabilities, whose behavior interferes with learning.

### 3. Great Resource:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Related to the Definitions, Roles, and Responsibilities of Parents, Persons Acting as the Parent of a Child, and Surrogate Parents](#) is a great document when you are seeking to identify the rights of a person/parent/guardian.

### 4. New ACT 20 Information

Act 20 states that districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a PSCP must consider a student's reading ability when promoting students from third to fourth grade. If a student is not yet meeting reading expectations at the end of third grade and the student is promoted to fourth grade, the district, independent charter school, or private school has the responsibility to continue supporting the student – beyond third grade – to develop proficiency in reading.

- [Model Promotion Policy](#)

Because statutory requirements for districts and independent charter schools differ from those for private schools participating in a PSCP (Private School Choice Program), a separate model promotion policy is provided for each:

- [Model Promotion Policy for Districts and Independent Charter Schools](#) document
- [Model Promotion Policy for Private Schools Participating in a Private School Choice Program](#)

**\*\*Of Note: "Representatives from the school/district will communicate long-term risks of retention to the student's parent or guardian." Potential risks are mentioned on Page 5.**

The DPI has also developed separate FAQ documents for districts and independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a PSCP, regarding the model third-to-fourth grade promotion policy. The information in the FAQ's focuses on promotion policies. Information about intensive summer reading and intensive instruction in fourth will be available soon.

- [FAQs: Districts and Independent Charter Schools](#)
- [FAQs: Private Schools Participating in Private School Choice Programs](#)

For more information and updates on Act 20, [visit the DPI's dedicated webpage](#).

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## Public School Open Enrollment

**The open enrollment application period for the 2025-26 school year is February 3, 2025 - April 30, 2025 at 4:00pm.**

The inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend public school in a school district other than the one in which they reside.

The Department of Public Instruction's [Open Enrollment page](#) and [Open Enrollment Special Education webpage](#) provides information and resources for parents who choose to enroll their child in a different district than the resident district.

It is a local school board decision to create open enrollment policies as they relate to students with disabilities and those local school board policies can set limits on the number of students who receive special education services through an IEP are able to be open enrolled in their district.

### Resources available for open enrollment:

- A FAQ that outlines these requirements on the Wisconsin DPI webpage. [Questions and Answers about 2015 Act 55 \(2015-17 Budget\) Open Enrollment Changes for Pupils with Disabilities](#).
- An online presentation, "[Open Enrollment, Reasons for Denial](#)" provides additional information on open enrollment.
- [Public School Open Enrollment Information Bulletin 16-05](#) provides directions on completing open enrollment requirements.
- [Bulletin 16.10: Special Education Space Determination and Reasons for Denial for Open Enrollment](#)
- [Bulletin 16.06: Procedures for Acting on Open Enrollment Applications](#)

If a parent is denied open enrollment, the parent may appeal an open enrollment decision. For information on appeals, see the [Public School Open Enrollment Informational Bulletin 19-03](#) related to appeals found on the [Wisconsin DPI Public School Open Enrollment Appeals Information website](#).

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# *Have you ever wondered... Does my child's School Nurse have a role in the IEP?*

## **Information about School Nurses to consider**

- School nurses have an important role in determining how student health conditions affect their education.
- A school nurses' role on Special Education Evaluation and IEP teams is not well understood and thus school nurses are often overlooked, or not invited to these meetings.
- Below are some of the roles school nurses play and resources school nurses use to document health needs and the interventions they or other staff will perform to keep students safe in school and to remove health barriers to education.
- Having a school nurse on your child's IEP team if they have a health condition, is important so they can advocate for your student and help determine appropriate accommodations and possible goals.

School nurses may be involved in:

- Determination of (health) disability needs.
- Providing in-service training for staff regarding the individual health needs of the child.
- Provide and/or delegate to unlicensed personnel to provide specialized healthcare services in the school setting (requires supervision).
- Assist with transition planning related to chronic health conditions of a student.
- Documentation and billing for Medicaid school based services.

It is considered best practice to incorporate some of the information from a health plan into the 504 plan or an IEP but the plans do not substitute for each other.

Under the Program Modifications or Support for School Personnel section of the IEP document, school nurses can include a statement to the effect that "School nurse develops and maintains an Individualized Health Plan (IHP-nursing care plan), Health Plan, or Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that addresses student health needs and the plan(s) is/are on file in the health office."

- Individualized Healthcare Plan (IHP) –nursing care plan for School Nurse
- Student Health Plan – summary of health and safety needs of student for school staff
- Emergency Action Plan (EAP) - used by lay staff in an urgent or emergency situation (slide 51)

[Comparison IHP/ EAP/504 Plan/IEP](#)

[School Nurse Documentation in the IEP](#)

[DPI School Nursing Website](#)

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## **Wisconsin Conferences**

[Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference](#)

The Raising Wisconsin's Children Conference is a free, online learning event for parents, teachers, and caregivers of children providing supportive, practical parenting and child development information. Join this virtual opportunity to learn more about unlocking the power of social and

emotional skills in children and teens. All sessions will be available as recordings for a month after the conference. To access the recordings, you must register. Recording information will be sent to all registrants after the conference.

**Date:** January 28, 2025, 8:15am-4:30pm

**Location:** Virtual

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

### [Wisconsin Transition Conference](#)

Join hundreds of your colleagues at the 23rd Annual Transition Conference. In addition to the keynote speakers, the conference will have over 20 breakout sessions to choose and built in networking time.

**Dates:** February 13-14, 2025

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

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

### [36th Annual Autism Conference](#)

This is the largest and longest running autism conference in Wisconsin. It brings together 1000+ members of the autism community from across the state. Participants will walk away with innovative ideas for supporting day-to-day life and making the world a better place for autistic children and adults.

**Dates:** April 3-5, 2025

**Location:** Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

### [Circles of Life Conference](#)

Circles of Life is Wisconsin's annual conference for families who have children with disabilities and the professionals who support them.

**Dates:** May 8-9, 2025

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

Registration coming soon!

### **Annual Wisconsin "Staycation" and Autism Summit**

**Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI**

**Friday, July 11 – Saturday, July 12, 2025**

Call for Presenter proposals - [click here to submit](#)

We encourage all interested individuals and organizations within the Autism community to submit their proposals for this exciting event. This conference aims to be a valuable resource for attendees, and we look forward to reviewing your submissions.

**Deadline for Proposal Submissions: Friday, April 11, 2024**

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## **Save The Date!**

Ozaukee County Transition Resource Fair

Grafton High School

March 12, 2025 4:30-6:30 PM

For More Information Contact: [ccot.ozaukee@gmail.com](mailto:ccot.ozaukee@gmail.com)

# OZ CO RESOURCE FAIR

Ozaukee County has some wonderful community resources. Come discover what's available for children, teens, and adults with disabilities.

GRAFTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS  
(E. ENTRANCE, DOOR #18)

On Site Childcare Available. Please fill out form here if childcare is needed while at the fair.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SSHDB8P>

**WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH  
12TH  
2025  
4:30-6:30PM**

Information Available  
| Vocational | Educational | Recreational | Legal | Transition | Respite | Tutoring | Crafts | Exercise | Social | High School | College | Support Groups | Day Services | Social Groups | IEPs | Camps | Guardianship | Trusts | Specialized Equipment | Evaluations | Food and Art for Sale |

Attendance is free, but please consider bringing cash to support community members with disabilities who are selling art and food goods.

CONTACT FOR INFORMATION: [CCOT.OZAUKEE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CCOT.OZAUKEE@GMAIL.COM)

# SAVE THE DATE

VENUE IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE.

Sponsored by Oz. Co. Community on Transition

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## News from our partners 📅

[Wisconsin Family Voices January Newsletter](#)

[January Newsletter from WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

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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](#)

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Contact The WSPEI Project  
We would love to hear from you!





Email feedback and ideas of resources and information you would like to see from WSPEI

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

Website: <https://wspei.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinStatewideParentEducatorInitiative>

“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 project.”



## The WSPEI Project

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