

The WSPEI Connector

March 2026

Communicating Information and Resources for Wisconsin Families and Educators

The days are getting longer, the birds are getting louder, and our calendars are getting fuller. This month, we've curated a lineup of opportunities and resources to help everyone bloom. From learning workshops and networks to expert-led conferences, consider this your ultimate playbook to shake off the last of winter's frost. Be sure to take note of our **WSPEI Family, Youth and Community Engagement Network** event taking place on March 18th, all about the *Specific Learning Disability* category and reading success.



↓ Join us and let's spring forward into the new season together!

The WSPEI Program Statewide Learning and Networking Events

WSPEI Statewide Learning and Networking Opportunities

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

Registration is required. Zoom meeting links are sent out one week prior to the first session.

Workshops are not recorded. If you register, please plan to attend.

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

[Calendar of Events](#)

📍 WEEKLY ON WEDNESDAYS - VIRTUAL Drop-In Office Hour | Noon - 1:00 p.m. on ZOOM

The world of special education is filled with complex acronyms and life-changing decisions. Our goal is to empower **families, school staff, and agency members** with the expertise and resources needed to help every child thrive. You don't have to navigate this alone. Join us for a conversation! Registration is NOT required. See flyer linked below for ZOOM details.

WHAT:

- A WSPEI Coordinator will be available to answer questions about, Special Education, IEPs and strategies for families and school staff partnerships.
- When needed, we will connect families, school staff and others with their local WSPEI Coordinator for more support and information.
- We provide guidance in finding resources and new learning opportunities.

WHO:

ANYONE! Families, School Staff or Agency member who is:

- Seeking assistance with the special education process, including questions about an IEP(Individualized Education Program).
- Looking for resources and information to support children with a disability
- Interested in fostering stronger family-school partnerships.

Confidentiality:

Discussions during the Zoom meeting will remain confidential. Our coordinators are trained in confidentiality practices, and breakout rooms will be utilized for privacy. Sessions are NOT recorded.

[LINK to FLYER](#) with ZOOM Meeting Link

TOPIC SPECIFIC WORKSHOPS

[Partnering with Schools on Behavior and Discipline for Students with IEPs](#)

[Information Flyer in Spanish](#)

- Habrá interpretación al español disponible para las familias que la soliciten al registrarse

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;
- Explore dispute resolution options in Wisconsin.

April 10, 2026 | 9:00 am-11:00 am

[Click to REGISTER](#)

[The Family's Role in the CCR-IEP Process](#)

[Information Flyer in Spanish](#)

- Habrá interpretación al español disponible para las familias que la soliciten al registrarse

This **2-hour workshop** is aimed at equipping parents and other family members with knowledge and confidence to **actively participate in the IEP process**.

For families who have a child/youth between the ages of 3-21 who has an IEP.

Educators are encouraged to participate as well!

We have two dates offered in April 2026.

Choose the day and time that works best for you! Content delivered is the same on each day.

- **April 28, 2026** | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- **April 30, 2026** | 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Register for either of these dates here: [Click to Register](#)

ON GOING, MONTHLY NETWORK AND SUPPORT MEETINGS

Family, Youth and Community Engagement Network March Gathering

[Beyond the Label: Partnering for Reading Success](#)

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 from 4:00-5:30 pm On Zoom

Presenters: Rose Kilmurry, EdD, DPI Special Education Consultant and
Tim Peerenboom, DPI School Psychology Consultant

Reading difficulties, including dyslexia, are often misunderstood, leaving parents and educators speaking different languages. This session bridges that gap!

We will break down the myths surrounding dyslexia, clarify how it fits within the "Specific Learning Disability" (SLD) framework, and equip parents to work with other members of the IEP team to move the conversation from "labels" to "needs." Learn how the information parents communicate about their child's unique needs contributes to a comprehensive special education evaluation that allows the IEP team to select supports tailored to the specific challenges the student faces.

If you would like to submit questions for the presenters about this topic, [use this form](#). Please submit by Monday, March 16th.

If you have not registered for this Networking Community yet this year, you can do so [HERE](#). If you have registered for a past gathering, no need to register again.

[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. Learn from each other and experts in the field!

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

*These Network meetings are recorded and shared in an email after the meeting date.

[Link to flyer with meeting dates and topics](#)

Register one time and you will automatically receive the monthly reminder emails.

[Click to REGISTER](#)

[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**.

Register one time and you will automatically receive the monthly reminder emails.

[Click to REGISTER](#)

Who Are We? Meet our WSPEI Program Staff Members! 🧑‍🤝‍🧑

We have Family-School Partnership Coordinators working to support families and educators around the state! Check out the map to find who the Coordinator is in your area!

Visit our webpage for information to get in touch with them: <https://wspei.org/contact/>

MEET OUR WSPEI TEAM

Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

Family-School Partnership Coordinators



Stephanie Adrihan
CESA 1



Carlene Chavez
CESA 2



Caroline Rossing
CESA 3



Tiffany Lisk
CESA 4



Robyn Morris
CESAs 5 & 6*



Sara Nerenhausen
CESAs 7 & 8*



Heidi Lehman
CESAs 9 & 10*



Stephanie Lulich
CESA 11* & 12



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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 grant program.



Contact us at:
[https://wspei.org/
contact/](https://wspei.org/contact/)



Statewide Program Staff



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 grant program.

WSPEI in your Neighborhood - REGIONAL Trainings

The Family's Role in the IEP Process

DATE: Friday March 27, 2026 | 9:00 -11:00 a.m.

LOCATION: On ZOOM

Facilitated by Family-School Partnership Coordinators Carlene Chavez and Heidi Lehman:

Contact with any questions:

- Carlene Chavez, CESA 2 | carlene.chavez@Cesa2.org | OR call: 414-791-0837
- Heidi Lehman, CESAs 9/10 | hlehman@cesa9.org | OR call: 715.360.2656

[Link to Information Flyer](#)

Registration is required to receive Zoom meeting link:

[Register Here](#)

**From the Wisconsin Department of Public
Instruction**

Special Education Bulletins Available in Spanish

PI recently translated several special education bulletins into Spanish. These can be found on the DPI [Special Education Bulletins webpage](#). They have also been added to the DPI [Spanish language special education topics webpage](#) that contain a wide variety of DPI resources in Spanish.

November 12th 2025 Council on Special Education Public Forum Summary of Comments

Following the public forum, the council met at their next regularly scheduled business meeting in December to discuss both the comments shared on November 12th as well as the comments that were shared online.

For those of you that were able to attend the event or were able to provide online comments, the council would like to thank you for your input and sharing your thoughts about the educational needs of students who receive special education services through an Individualized Education Program. If you were not able to attend this event, we hope this information is helpful to you and encourage you to attend the council's public forum next fall. [The council meeting webpage](#) will be updated this summer with 2026-2027 council meetings and public forum dates and registration.

Click this [LINK to the summary of comments](#). The council and Wisconsin DPI thank you for your time in sharing these comments to assist council in their role to bring the voice of various special education groups to DPI and assist council in providing recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Topics for Upcoming Specific Learning Disabilities Community of Practice Meetings

Mark your calendars for the next two meetings of the [Specific Learning Disabilities Community of Practice](#). On **March 18th** Tanya Morin (dual language and bilingual education consultant) and Rose Kilmurray (special education consultant) will facilitate a discussion about **comprehensive special education evaluation** for multilingual learners.

On April 15th, Eva Kubinski (special education consultant) will join the group for a **discussion about exclusionary factors**. [Register for the entire series](#) and attend the sessions that interest you.

Resource Reminder: Seclusion and Physical Restraint

Wisconsin Statute 118.305 Pupil Restraint and Seclusion prohibits the use of seclusion or physical restraint by school staff except in **very limited circumstances where a student's behavior presents a clear, present, and imminent risk to the physical safety of students or school staff and it is the least restrictive intervention feasible**.

The DPI has a dedicated webpage that includes a summary of state law, reporting timelines, leveled supports for schools, tools and resources to support reduction, prevention resources, and data. See the [DPI Seclusion and Physical Restraint webpage for information](#).

Stay up to Date by visiting the [DPI News Room](#)

WI FACETS

March Newsletter and 2026 Training Calendar

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. WI FACETS [Webinar Recordings](#) as well as WI FACETS [resources webpages](#).

The WI FACETS March Newsletter explores the disability: **Significant Developmental Delay Special Education Category**

Wisconsin's Significant Developmental Delay (SDD) special education category allows schools to identify and serve children ages 3 through 9 who show significant delays in development. Learn all about it in the newsletter linked here:

[March Newsletter in English](#)

[March Newsletter in Spanish](#)

Are you looking to enhance your knowledge and confidence while supporting a child with a disability? WI FACETS invites **families, caregivers, and professionals** to explore our 2026 calendar of free, expert-led workshops designed to empower and inform you every step of the way.

📄 View and register for upcoming trainings at: www.wifacets.org/training/calendar

[PDF of Training Calendar in English](#)

[PDF of Training Calendar in Spanish](#)

Companion Resources from WSPEI

[About Me](#): A simple form to share information about your young child

[Journey to 3!](#): A transition roadmap providing visual information about the referral process

Wisconsin Conferences

State Events and Save the Dates

[2026 Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin and the Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin Annual Conference](#)

The purpose of the annual conference is to provide a wide range of information to those within the autism community. The goal is to provide relevant information for attendees at all levels, including those who are new to autism and those who have years of experience.

Dates: April 23-25, 2026

Location: Kalahari Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI

[REGISTRATION is OPEN](#)

[Circles of Life Conference](#)

Dates: May 14-15, 2026

Location: Holiday Inn Stevens Point Convention Center, Stevens Point, WI

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

Keynote Speaker: Dr. K Jane Lee

Dr. Lee is the mother of two children, one of whom has severe neurologic impairment from a brain injury at birth. She is a passionate advocate for anti-ableism, and has published a book, *Catastrophic Rupture: A Memoir of Healing*, which invites readers to join her as she shifts from an ableist medical perspective of disability that sees only an impaired body, to the mother's perspective that sees the **beauty and value in the person that is her child.**

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Deadline: May 1 / No Walk-in Registrations

[Link to Register in English](#)

[Registro Espanol](#)

[2026 WI FACETS Endless Possibilities Conference](#)

Save the Date! Date: August 7, 2026

Location: Waukesha County Technical College (AJN Center), Pewaukee, WI

The annual Endless Possibilities conference invites families and professionals who support students with disabilities to learn and grow together. We encourage open dialogue between families and professionals to discuss positive solutions for all our students with special needs in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! Governor Tony Evers has officially proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Wisconsin! The month/proclamation is meant to raise awareness about the contributions people with developmental disabilities make in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still face in connecting to their communities.

Read more in the WI BPDD [March Newsletter!](#)



Wisconsin Family Voices

March Events

It's a hopeful month with a lot of advocacy events. Family Voices prepares you by offering learning sessions to give you the latest information. Find the details for these virtual sessions on our [Events Calendar](#). Register on the Calendar.



Wednesday, March 18, 12:00pm - 12:45pm

Lunchtime Transition Learning - Guardianship

Wednesday, March 18, 5:30pm - 6:30pm

What's After High School? - DVR Services, Employment and Project Search

Saturday, March 21, 12:30pm - 1:30pm

Nurture Network Coffee Gathering

Monday, March 23, 11:30am - 12:30pm

Thinking About Supported Decision Making

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Early Choices Matter

Tuesday, March 31, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Nurture Network Coffee Gathering

Autism Awareness, Appreciation and Advocacy Event!

Potawatomi Community Center

Join us at the Potawatomi Community Center as we share resources and come together for a meaningful evening of connection, learning, and community.

📅 Wednesday, April 15, 2026

🕒 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

📍 Potawatomi Community Center in Crandon, WI

Enjoy:

🎬 A featured film showing at 4:00 PM – They are Sacred

📚 Educational resources

🕶️ “In Their Shoes” Virtual Reality Experience

🧘 Sensory calming space

🎟️ Raffles & giveaways

🏠 Bounce house

🍪 Snacks, and more!

Bring your chairs, blankets, and whatever you need to get comfortable on the turf.

This event brings together families, advocates, and community members to celebrate and uplift autistic individuals in a supportive and inclusive space.

We hope to see you there as we stand together in awareness, advocacy, and appreciation!

AUTISM AWARENESS, ADVOCACY, & APPRECIATION NIGHT



Join us on the turf for a movie, educational resources, a sensory calming space, raffles, bounce house, snacks, and giveaways!

**Wednesday,
April 15, 2026 • 3-6pm**

POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY CENTER
5471 Thayék Êthê Dnêkmîgêgêk Myéw • Crandon, Wisconsin

4pm They are Sacred
A film that gives viewers unique access to the world of an autistic child, and to follow his father's journey to bring back traditional First Nations perspectives in our contemporary world. Bring chairs, blankets, and whatever you need to get comfortable.

ALSO FEATURING
In Their Shoes:
A Virtual Reality Experience that aims to raise awareness about Autism, presented by the Great Lakes Inter Tribal Epidemiology Center's Together Strong: Brain Health Program.






Connect with WSPEI

We are here to support and assist!

Are you looking for support information, or resources 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](#)

Visit our Weekly Wednesday Drop-In Support Hour! Noon-1:00 every Wednesday

[Click Here](#) for Flyer with Zoom Meeting information

Bring a Workshop to Your Area! We'd love to partner with you!

Interested in hosting one of our workshops locally? Reach out and let's make it happen.

Email us at: wspei@cesa12.org

Downloadable pdfs of past newsletters can be found [HERE](#)



The WSPEI Program

Contact

Subscribe

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