



The WSPEI Connector

October 2025

👋 Communicating Information and Resources for Wisconsin Families and Educators



Fall weather is finally upon us!

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We've packed it with ways for you to **connect, learn and discover resources** across the state. A particularly important opportunity for our **Special Education community** is the **Council on Special Education Public Forum** coming up in November—you can find all the details you need to make your voice heard in the **DPI section** below.

We hope you can take a moment to enjoy this beautiful season of change! Whether you're apple-picking, taking a scenic drive to see

the spectacular fall colors, or simply enjoying a cool morning walk, autumn in Wisconsin is truly grand. 🍂

The WSPEI Project 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.

In an attempt to make it easier for you to register:

[REGISTER FOR ALL WSPEI WORKSHOPS and BOOK STUDIES ON THIS FORM](#)

[REGISTER FOR ALL WSPEI NETWORKS and COMMUNITIES ON THIS FORM](#)

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

[Calendar of Events](#)

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!

[Click to Register](#)

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

[**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

[CLICK to REGISTER](#)

ON GOING, MONTHLY NETWORK AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS

[**October Family, Youth and Community Engagement Network Meeting**](#)

There are times when disagreements between the family and school require additional support. In Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have the Wisconsin Special Education Mediation System (WSEMS). It provides free dispute resolution services for parents of children with disabilities and schools. This session will cover the various services provided by WSEMS and how to access these services. There will be time for questions!

Wednesday, October 15 from 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

If you have already registered for this network, no need to do so again - one registration covers the meetings for the year.

If you are new to this Network, [CLICK HERE 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](#)

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](#)

WSPEI Regional Events

Southern Wisconsin

IEP Bootcamp - Empowering Families in the IEP Process

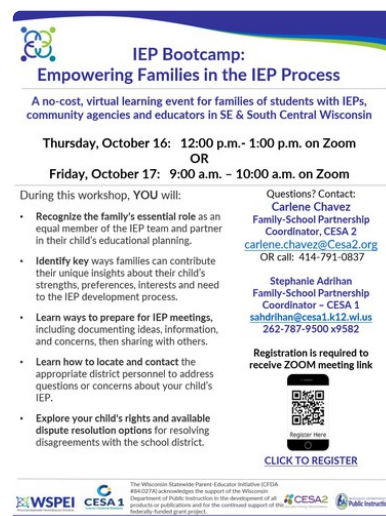
Virtual on ZOOM

Thursday, October 16: 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

OR

Friday, October 17: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

[Click here](#) for flyer with more information and registration link



IEP Bootcamp:
Empowering Families in the IEP Process

A no-cost, virtual learning event for families of students with IEPs, community agencies and educators in SE & South Central Wisconsin

Thursday, October 16: 12:00 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. on Zoom
OR
Friday, October 17: 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

During this workshop, YOU will:

- Recognize the family's essential role as an equal member of the IEP team and partner in their child's educational planning.
- Identify key ways families can contribute their unique insights about their child's strengths, preferences, interests and need to the IEP development process.
- Learn ways to prepare for IEP meetings, including documenting ideas, information, and concerns, then sharing with others.
- Learn how to locate and contact the appropriate district personnel to address questions or concerns about your child's IEP.
- Explore your child's rights and available dispute resolution options for resolving disagreements with the school district.

Questions? Contact:
Carlene Chavez
Family-School Partnership
Coordinator, CESA 2
carlene.chavez@Cesa2.org
OR call: 414-791-0837

Stephanie Adrihan
Family-School Partnership
Coordinator - CESA 1
sahdrihan@cesa1.k12.wi.us
262-787-9500 x582

Registration is required to receive ZOOM meeting link

[CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

La Crosse and Western Wisconsin Area

Recipe for Success: Transition Planning

Blended Workshop

Monday, November 10th from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

In-Person at Aptiv, 3000 South Ave, La Crosse, 2nd floor board room

OR Virtually on ZOOM

[Click here](#) for flyer with more information and registration link



Recipe for Success: Transition Planning
A FREE, Blended Training: In-Person or on ZOOM
For families of a child with an IEP, self-advocates, educators and community agency members.

Transition planning is a key part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. In Wisconsin, it begins at age 14.

When: Monday, November 10th from 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Where: In-Person at Aptiv, 3000 South Ave, La Crosse, 2nd floor board room OR Virtually on ZOOM

Pizza provided by WSPEI, and cookies provided by the Aptiv Transition Program students

This workshop will give participants the essential tools to prepare for meaningful transition conversations with IEP teams.

During our time together, participants will understand the Postsecondary Transition Plan (PTP) process, how to be actively involved and who can help support the transition to life after high school.

Just like every great recipe, each transition plan is unique, seasoned with a person's individual strengths and needs.

Come cook up a successful future with us!

The Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative (CEEA) #WISPEI acknowledges the support of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the development of all materials, publications and for the continued support of this financially funded grant project.

Registration is required by Nov 3rd to plan for space and food needs.

[Link to Registration Form](#)

Register Here: 

Questions? Contact:
Tiffany Link
WSPEI Coordinator - CESA 4
tlisk@cesa4.org
OR
Call: 608-786-4828

Northern Wisconsin

The Family's Role in the IEP Process

Join us **Virtually on ZOOM** as we dive into our roles as Family Members in the IEP process.

November 6 & 13-- 1:00-3:00. (attendance at both days is necessary!)

[Click Here](#) for flyer with more information and registration link

The flyer is titled "The Family's Role in the College and Career Ready IEP Process" and features the CCR-IEP logo. It states: "Do you have a child between the ages of 3-21 who has an IEP? Then this workshop is for YOU!" It describes a "FREE virtual 2-session workshop" on November 6/25 and 11/13/25 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on ZOOM. It lists topics to be covered: "Strategies for strengthening relationships with school staff", "Preparing for the IEP meeting", "Understanding the 5-step CCR-IEP Process", and "Options for resolving conflict". It also mentions "Community resources that can assist you on your child's educational journey!". Contact information for Stephanie Lulich and Heidi Lehman is provided, along with a QR code and a "Registration is required" notice.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

News and Information from DPI

[Special Education Council Public Forum:](#)

The purpose of this public forum is to assist council members in advising the State Superintendent of Public Instruction on the educational needs of students who receive special education through an Individualized Education Program.

Mark your calendar!

The Council on Special Education will be hosting a virtual public forum on **November 12, 2025 from 5:00pm-6:30pm**. We invite you to participate in the forum by [registering for the zoom meeting](#).

You can also submit a comment online. Online comments will open on November 5th and close on November 14th. To submit a comment please complete the following survey in either [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Survey Input for Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards (WMELS)

Wisconsin is updating the Model Early Learning Standards through the Wisconsin Early Learning and Development Guidelines Revision Project. Please share this opportunity with those utilizing WMELS in your school community including families, educators, administrators, and community engagement partners. The survey takes about 15 minutes: [Link to take the statewide survey](#). Your feedback will help Wisconsin identify what's working in WMELS, what's missing or outdated, as well as formats and tools that would make the next version most useful. Learn more: [Early Learning and Development Guidelines Revision Project](#). Questions or help? Contact carrie.germeroth@marzanoresearch.com.

Update to Shortened School Day Bulletin

The department recently added Question 13 to its [Shortened Day Bulletin 24.01](#) clarifying that the shortened day requirements do not apply to students with IEPs who stay in high school after their peers graduate (18-21 services). The IEP team must continue to determine the services an adult student needs to receive a free and appropriate public education, and the decision must be based on the individualized needs of the student. However, what their day looks like, including its length,

may differ significantly from a traditional school day. For adult students who stay in high school after their peers graduate, this time may be used by some to finish credits toward graduation with a regular high school diploma, while for others, it may involve building skills as they transition to life after high school.

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to the Special Education main line at 608-266-1781.

Wisconsin Conferences

2025 Children Come First Conference

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.

Families with children enrolled in the [Children's Long-Term Support \(CLTS\) program](#) may have the chance to use the program to fund conference registration fees. Registration through CLTS must be facilitated by an authorized agent, such as a County Representative or a Caseworker.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference

Registration is now open for the 2025 Building the Heart of Successful Schools Conference.

DATES: December 11, 2025 with pre-conference sessions on December 10, 2025

LOCATION: Glacier Canyon Conference Center - Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Register by November 20, 2025.

Check out the [BHSS Conference Booklet](#) for keynote speaker and breakout session information! Register yourself or your school team. Contact the WISH Center (wishschools@cesa4.org) for help with registration. [Link to register](#)

Circles of Life Conference

Call for Presentations Now Open

Dates: May 14 & 15, 2026

Location: Holiday Inn Stevens Point Convention Center

Registration Opens February 1, 2026

We need a wide variety of presentations to meet the interests of our attendees.

The theme for our 2026 conference is ***Families and Professionals on the Path Together***. We encourage you to submit a presentation proposal reflecting this theme. If possible, include how partnerships and collaborations improve outcomes for all families.

[Click this link for the Presentation Application Form](#)

Contact Lynn at Family Voices, Lynn@fvofwi.org.

Application Deadline: October 17



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 WI FACETS October Newsletter highlights information and resources for learning about Specific Learning Disabilities:

[October Newsletter - English](#)

[October Newsletter - Spanish](#)

Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW)

A New Look, A New Vision: Defending Dignity and Advancing Justice!

Disability Rights Wisconsin is excited to unveil our new mission and look that will help support our work moving forward.

[READ MORE ABOUT IT HERE!](#)

Visit the [DRW website](#) to learn more about their work

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities(WI BPDD)

Update and Newsletter

!Partners in Policymaking: Application Deadline extended to October 27th!

The Wisconsin Partners in Policymaking program is a six-session advocacy training to prepare future leaders around the state who can work with lawmakers and communities to support the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of life.

Find more details and application [HERE](#)

Dates for the Class of 2025/2026 are:

November 14 & 15, 2025 (Madison*)

December 12 & 13, 2025 (Virtual only)

January 16 & 17, 2026 (Virtual only)

February 27 & 28, 2026 (Virtual only)

April 3 & 4, 2026 (Madison*)

May 1 & 2, 2026 (Madison*)

*If attending in person is difficult, please contact Jenny Neugart, Project Manager at Jennifer.neugart@wisconsin.gov to discuss options.

Who can attend?

We are looking for motivated individuals who want to create inclusive communities and are:

- Parents or primary caregivers of children under 21 with developmental disabilities
- Adults with developmental disabilities
- Adult siblings or family members of individuals with developmental disabilities
- We want cultural and geographic diversity in the group attending. Participants will be chosen by a team of parents, self-advocates, and professionals.

What is the cost?

Partners is funded by BPDD and covers costs associated with the training, hotel rooms, meals, and materials.

WI BPDD [October Newsletter](#)

Wisconsin Family Voices

Wisconsin Family Voices October Events:

Wednesday, October 15, 12:00 - 12:45

Transition Learning Sessions: Gain Independence and Skills to Live in the Community

Wednesday, October 15, 5:30 - 6:45

Thinking About Supported Decision-Making

Monday, October 23, 11:30 - 12:30

Medicaid Made Easy

Wednesday, October 27, 5:30 - 6:30

What's After High School?

Wednesday, October 29, 11:30 - 12:30

Employment and DVR Services

Wednesday, October 29, 5:00 - 6:00

Thinking About Supported Decision-Making

[Visit this link for descriptions](#)

[Register for events here](#)

[Link to Family Voices Newsletter](#)





Around the State! 🐘 Information and Events!

Connecting Families

Connecting Families is a network of peer support in the state of Wisconsin for families of children and youth with special health care needs. In short, we help families connect with other families on a similar journey.

For more information, visit the website: [Connecting Families](#)

Children's Wisconsin

Parenting isn't easy. Children's Wisconsin is here to help!

Children's Wisconsin offers free workshops for parents and caregivers with children birth to 16 years old. You will gain positive parenting skills to manage stress, build new healthy habits, and support your child's whole health.

Parenting workshops are offered both online and in-person. Topics change each month. Please sign up for the programs below that meet your parenting goals.

[Schedule of workshops](#)

Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)

Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA) at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) is designed to provide students on the Autism spectrum the hands-on training needed to prepare for a career as a computer numerical control (CNC) operator.

Find more details and a link to apply [HERE](#)

MATC's Uniquely Abled Academy Open House

October 29, 2025 - 10:00 am

MATC Downtown Milwaukee Location

[Link to flyer](#) with more information and registration!

Project Search - River Falls

River Falls Project SEARCH is hosting the second annual Transition Services Open House!

Date: November 13th from 5-7pm

Location: River Falls Area Hospital

Join us to learn more about our two featured transition programs, **Project SEARCH** and **Northwood Tech's Hospitality Foundations Program**, and chat with representatives from various other transition services including Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and more!

Email Natasha Herum at natasha.herum@rfsd.k12.wi.us for more information.

[Link to flyer](#) with additional information

Parents United

Parents United is a 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. All events are FREE!

Click the links for each date to go to a flyer with additional details and registration information:

- [October 21 \(IEP Bootcamp\)](#) IN-PERSON
 - [November 13 \(Disappear Fear\)](#) VIRTUAL
 - [November 18 \(Transition Panel\)](#) IN-PERSON
 - [December 4 \(Creating Financial Security\)](#) VIRTUAL
-

Children's Resources Center North

Parent Support Sessions:

Join for a presentation with **Sean Inderbitzen, an autistic therapist** practicing in Northwest Wisconsin. He will share his research on the impact of polyvagal theory and the nervous system with neurodivergent children.

Two Options:

When: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 5:00- 7:15 pm

Where: Holiday Inn Conference Room-Hayward
15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843

or

When: Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5:00- 7:15 pm

Where: Cobblestone Inn conference room- Ashland
818 Main St W, Ashland, WI, 54806

[Link to flyer](#) with additional information

Racine County Public Health, Burlington Area School District, and NAMI Racine County

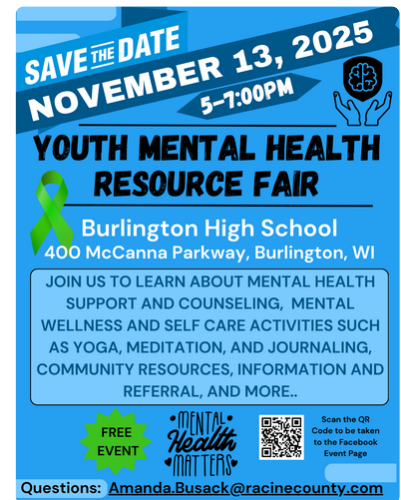
2nd annual **Youth Mental Health Resource Fair**. This is a **FREE** Youth Mental Health Resource Fair!

When: Thursday November 13th, 2025, from 5-7pm

Where: Burlington High School, located at 400 McCanna Parkway, in Burlington, WI.

This Youth Mental Health Resource Fair, will **showcase and highlight** a variety of **mental health and wellness services and supports** (counseling, yoga, physical health and activities, exercise/sports, mindfulness, insurance info, etc) that are available for **YOUTH**, as well as their parents and caregivers, not only in Racine County, but also in our neighboring counties and communities.

Information on the [Facebook Page](#)



Walworth County

Walworth County Resource Fair for Individuals with Diverse Abilities - SAVE THE DATE

Come learn about local disability services and connect with resources available to you and your family - financial resources, respite, recreational ideas, job training, education, living arrangements and more!

Food Trucks available! More details to follow.

When: Thursday, November 6, 2025 - 5:00 - 7:00 P M

Where: Lakeland School, W3905 County Road NN, Elkhorn WI 53121



Wisconsin Tourette Association

Upcoming Event: Madison Tourette Community Building Day

There will also be a **children's program** offered by Tourette Syndrome Camp USA.

If you plan to attend, please email:

Scott Loeff at Scott63@prodigy.net with the number of adults and children attending.

There is **no cost** to attend.

Date: Saturday, November 8, 2025, 1:00 PM

Location: Madison Area Technical College – Truax Campus
1701 Wright Street, Main Building, Room C-2408, Madison, WI

Speakers:

Dr. Jordan Stiede, Clinical Psychologist – *“CBIT Treatment for Tourette Syndrome”*

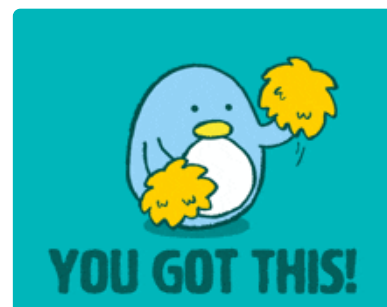
Cody Peterson, Wisconsin Tourette Youth Ambassador

Nicole Hauch, Milwaukee-based Support Group Leader

When Students Are In School Every Day...

- ✓ They stay connected to classroom discussions and peer relationships
- ✓ Learning builds naturally from one day to the next
- ✓ They contribute to our strong classroom community
- ✓ They maintain the positive habits we've established together

Learn more about resources and research at [Attendance Works](#)



CONNECT WITH WSPEI

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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](#)

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

Find past newsletters and downloadable pdfs [HERE](#)



The WSPEI Project

www.wspei.org

[Contact](#)[Subscribe](#)

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