

# The WSPEI Connector

September 2024

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## Welcome to September!



We hope you had a fantastic summer and are ready to dive back into the new school year!

Fall is a great time to reset and refocus, and if one of your goals this season is to learn something new, we have a workshop that can help you achieve that.

We're excited to offer fresh content in our traditional workshops and networks, and we're also introducing two new book discussions: "Crucial Conversations" and "The Explosive Child."

Registration is now open for these sessions. You will find links to

the information flyers and registration forms for these and all WSPEI workshops in the section below our logo.

Whether the children you support and nourish began classes in August or have completed their first week back, we wish everyone a safe, productive and enjoyable school year!



Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

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# WSPEI Fall 2024 Workshops and Networking Events

All 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](#) to receive the monthly newsletter and event notifications.

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Fall 2024 Family Efficacy Workshops, Links and Descriptions](#)

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## 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 3-21 who have an IEP.

- Sessions will run from 6-7:30 pm on October 15, 22 & 29, 2024.
- Educators are encouraged to participate as well!

Link to:

- [FLYER and Registration](#)
- [Flyer in Spanish](#)

### 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.

- Our fall sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings or Friday mornings. We ask registrants to pick a day to attend:
- Tuesdays at 5:30-8:30 pm September 10,
- Fridays at 9:00 am-noon, September 27, October 4, 11 & 18, 2024

Link to:

- [FLYER and Registration](#)
- [Flyer in Spanish](#)

### 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.

- Sessions are held from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.
- Session 1 Topics: Acronyms/Terms; Birth-3; Pre-School; Communication
- Session 2 Topics: Evaluation Reports; IEPs; Transition(PTP); General Information.
- Session dates: 11/14/24 & 11/21/24

Link to:

- [FLYER and Registration](#)
- [Flyer in Spanish](#)

### Engaging & Supporting Families Through Groups & Networks

A 4-part workshop series for families of a child with an IEP, Community Agency Members, and Educators held on Thursdays from 9:00 - 11:00 am, September 12, 19, 26 & October 3rd, 2024.

Using the Serving on Groups curriculum 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.

Link to:

- [FLYER and Registration](#)
- [Flyer in Spanish](#)

## **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 first Wednesday of the month from 7-8 pm and the first Thursday of every month from 12-1:00 pm.
- Our supportive community meetings provide valuable learning opportunities and mutual support.
- They 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.
- October 16, 30 & November 13, 2024.

Link to:

- [FLYER and Registration](#)
- [Flyer in Spanish](#)

## Crucial Conversations, Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High

Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, Switzler

How do you deal with topics that are sensitive yet important to you? Your daily interactions can hold pivotal moments, with outcomes that affect the quality of your relationships, careers and life. This book by Kerry Patterson et. al. helps you to identify and effectively conduct “crucial conversations”, so you can overcome difficult or sensitive issues, to improve results and achieve your desired outcomes.

- 3 Sessions on Thursdays 9-10:30 am
- 10/17,10/ 31 & 11/14/2024

Link to:

[FLYER and Registration](#)

## The Explosive Child

Dr. Ross Green

If you are the parent of a behaviorally challenging child, this book should help you feel more optimistic about and confident in handling your child’s difficulties and restore some sanity to your family. If you are the child’s grandparent, teacher, neighbor, coach, or therapist, this book should, at the least, help you understand.

- 3 sessions on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
- 11/13/24, 12/11/24, & 1/8/25

Link to:

[FLYER and Registration](#)

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## **\*\*Two new publications from WSPEI\*\***

What is the Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative?

Learn more about it in our NEW Updated printable brochure and share with others!

[https://wspei.org/documents/52245-wspei\\_brochure\\_2024\\_print.pdf](https://wspei.org/documents/52245-wspei_brochure_2024_print.pdf)

[wspei.org](https://wspei.org)

How can you receive support or resources about Special Education from WSPEI?

See our new postcard!

[https://wspei.org/documents/2024-2025\\_wspei\\_postcard.pdf](https://wspei.org/documents/2024-2025_wspei_postcard.pdf)

[wspei.org](https://wspei.org)

## Are you looking for resources or have questions about special education?



The Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) can help! *WSPEI Coordinators* support families and districts with:

- General Special Education Concerns and Questions
- Information about the IEP Process
- Relevant Resources and Referrals

WSPEI can be reached at [wspei.org/contact](http://wspei.org/contact)



### **WSPEI Vision:**

All families and school communities have the beliefs, knowledge and skills to meaningfully engage in effective decision-making to improve outcomes for students of all abilities.

### **WSPEI Mission:**

Develop Strong Relationships – Build Effective Partnerships

## ¿Busca recursos o tiene preguntas sobre educación especial?



¡La Iniciativa Estatal de Padres-Educadores de Wisconsin (WSPEI) puede ayudar! Los *Coordinadores de WSPEI* apoyan a familias, educadores y otras personas con:

- Dudas y preguntas generales sobre educación especial
- Información sobre el proceso de IEP
- Recursos relevantes y referencias

Es posible comunicarse con WSPEI a [wspei.org/contact](http://wspei.org/contact)



### **Visión de WSPEI:**

Todas las familias y comunidades escolares tienen la creencia, conocimiento y destrezas para tomar decisiones importantes de forma eficaz para mejorar los resultados para los estudiantes de todas las habilidades.

### **Misión de WSPEI:**

Desarrollar sólidas relaciones – Crear relaciones eficaces

## Wisconsin FACETS

### September Newsletter

This month's focus is Assistive Technology devices and services. It also includes all FACETS upcoming training events.

[September Newsletter](#)

[Newsletter in Spanish](#)

## Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

### NEW Information from the WI DPI

#### **2024-25 State Superintendent's Advisory Council on Special Education Public Forum**

The purpose for this forum is to gather input from **families, school administrators, educators, community representatives, and others**, on the unique challenges and successes of special education in Wisconsin.

[Link to Information Flyer](#)

[Registration for Public Forum](#)

#### **FAQ - Non-Attending Minor Students and Attendance Process**

This document is intended to provide answers to frequently asked questions regarding the attendance process for situations where minor students stop attending school for long periods of time.

[Link to the Non-Attending Process FAQs](#)

#### **ACT 20**

Act 20 states that all Wisconsin schools are required to provide science-based early literacy instruction in both universal and intervention settings.

The Department of Public Instruction has developed an FAQ document as a reference for anyone with questions about ACT.

[Link to FAQ document](#)

Sign up for the Listserve to receive updates and current information about ACT

[Link to sign up for Listserve](#)

## Do you know about this Special Education process?

### **Making a referral for a Special Education Evaluation and Child Find**

If someone believes a student has a disability which requires special education services, the person can make a special education referral. Upon request, the school district is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. Anyone can ask the school to decide if a child needs special education, including you, the parent, a teacher, a nurse or a doctor can ask. This request for evaluation is called a referral.

The public school district (often referred to as the LEA) is responsible for locating, identifying, and evaluating all children with disabilities within the schools under its jurisdiction, including private and religious schools.

Once a referral is received, the school district has up to 15 business days to decide if more tests are needed. The school district will ask for your permission if more tests are needed. The school district has up to 60 days from when they get your permission to test your child and decide if your child qualifies.

The school district has up to 30 days AFTER your child qualifies to:

- Write an IEP (Parents are an important member of an IEP team)
- Decide where your child will receive special education services and tell you in writing.

**A referral must be written. You can send a referral letter to the principal or special education director. A referral letter should include:**

- The date the referral is being made.
- Say "This is a referral for special education."
- Tell the child's first and last name, date of birth, and school (if enrolled).
- State your name, address and phone number (parent, guardian)
- Explain why you think the child might need special education services. Be specific about the concerns you have.
- Send your referral to the Director of Pupil Services or the District's Child Find email.
- Ask for a receipt that the referral has been received.

These resources may help you learn more about this process:

- [An Introduction to Special Education](#)
  - [Special Education in Plain Language](#) provides additional information on the referral process beginning on page 15.
  - [Special Education Referral and Evaluation Timeline Graphic](#) provides a visual of the evaluation process.
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## What is Child Find?

Every Wisconsin public school district is responsible for locating, identifying, and evaluating **all children ages 3 - 21 with disabilities** within the schools under its jurisdiction, including private and religious schools who may qualify for special education services.

If you suspect your child may have a disability, contact your local school.

[Example of an Early Childhood Child Find Brochure](#)

These two resources can help parents track their child's development:

[CDC Developmental Milestones](#)

[Act Early Milestone Tracker App](#)

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## WISCONSIN CONFERENCES

### Children Come First Conference

**October 7-8, 2024**

**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.

This year's theme, "*From Surviving to Thriving*," promises to bring together industry leaders, experts, and visionaries to discuss innovative approaches to supporting the mental health needs of children and adolescents.

Link to [Register](#)

### The Self-Determination Conference

**October 21-23, 2024**

**Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI**

The Self-Determination Conference is one of Wisconsin's largest events for people with disabilities and the people who support them.

Link to [Register](#)

### Special Education Conference 2024

**November 14-15, 2024**

**Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI**

Join hundreds of your colleagues from around the state and Midwest to learn, relax, network, and gather new ideas and resources at our 11th Annual Special Education Conference at the Kalahari. We have some great keynote speakers scheduled including Mills Rodgers and Kate Swenson.

[Link to website with description and registration](#)



## Monthly Spotlight on a Wisconsin Organization

### ALAS

ALAS is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the independence of families of children and youth with diverse abilities in Milwaukee by providing educational workshops, parent support groups, family events, community building activities, and service referrals amongst other services and supports.

The ALAS mission: To foster inclusive communities where individuals with disabilities have equitable opportunities to participate in every aspect of life to the best of their abilities and desires, especially individuals of color with multiple marginalized identities, through education, advocacy, and support services.

Visit the [ALAS website](#) to learn more about their services.

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### Events around Wisconsin

#### **What's After High School? A Conversation for La Crosse Area Families**

**Wednesday, September 11 5:00-6:15 pm**

What's After High School? offers families a broad overview of the transition to adult life for young adults with disabilities and special health care needs. The event is most helpful for families with children ages 14 - 21 and providers who support them. Parents are welcome to bring their teens along to this session.

[Link to Information Flyer](#)

[Link to sign up](#)

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

**September 23rd, 2024 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Rusk County Community Library 418 Corbett Ave W. Ladysmith, WI 54848**

This IN-PERSON workshop will include information and resources that equip parents and other family members to become more confident participants in the IEP process.

[Link to Information Flyer](#)

#### **Children's Resource Center - North**

**Share - Support - Learn Events**

**3 Locations**

[Link to flyer for Ashland Event](#)

[Link to flyer for Hayward Event](#)

[Link to flyer for Phillips Event](#)

## WisconsinSibs

Events around the state

[Link to flyer with dates and locations](#)

### Meet UW-Milwaukee: Deaf, Hard of Hearing & ASL Day

Friday, October 18, 2024 at 9:30 AM until 1:30 PM

Division of Student Affairs Student Union

2200 E Kenwood Blvd

Milwaukee, WI 53211

This day is designed specifically for prospective students who are D/deaf, deaf-blind, or hard of hearing and/or hearing students interested in ASL and considering a career working in the Deaf community. We welcome high school students and their families to visit UW-Milwaukee and learn more about the academic process, available resources and support through the Accessibility Resource Center, and next steps for transitioning to college.

[Link to sign up](#)



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>

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WSPEI Project

Contact

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