

THE WSPEI CONNECTOR

March 2024

This month brings with it longer days, warmer sunshine and for many spring fever!

We hope you are still able to find time to look through this month's issue of The Connector which highlights many learning opportunities along with the WI Facets Family Engagement Newsletter that is rich in resources.

We've spiced it up with some of our favorites as well!



Wisconsin Statewide Parent Educator Initiative

WSPEI Learning and Networking Opportunities

Family Engagement Community of Practice and Learning March Meeting:

[Where Is The Manual?](#)

Learn about little known resources and information, share your resources, and network with others.

Wednesday, March 13, 2024; 4:00-5:30 pm Via Zoom

Come join us! Registration: [Register Here](#)

For more information please contact Cheri Sylla at csylla@cesa1.k12.wi.us.

[Family Support Community](#)

[Family Support Community Spanish](#) (Comunidad de Apoyo Familiar)

FREE Networking and Learning: [REGISTER HERE to Receive ZOOM Information](#)

A monthly learning opportunity offered to families and other caregivers supporting a child(ren) with a disability. Meeting on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month 4-5:30 or the first Thursday morning of the month 11:30-1:00 running from September 2023 through May 2024.

Family Engagement Community of Practice

FREE but registration is required! [REGISTRATION LINK](#)

A learning community for educators, administrators, statewide agencies, community partners, and families focusing on family-engagement-specific topics. Meeting the second Wednesday of the month via ZOOM 4:00-5:30 pm September 2023-May 2024.

Remaining Topics:

March 13 Where is the Manual? Resources that You Didn't Know About

April 10 Transitioning from Birth to 3: From IFSP to IEP

May 8 Belonging Matters: Children with Complex Disabilities

Statewide Conferences

Circles of Life Conference - Family Voices of Wisconsin

May 16-17

Stevens Point, WI

[REGISTRATION](#)

Parent/Family Member:

In-Person \$150 or Virtual* \$60

Professional/Provider/Educator:

In-Person \$325 or Virtual* \$150

*Virtual attendees will have access to **2 workshops** per session as well as the keynote speaker.

Student/Child:

In-Person \$100

All children/teens attending Sibshop or Gathering of Youth must be registered for the conference and a separate sign up form must be completed.

Adult Caregiver/Chaperone (attending meals only): In-Person \$100

Circles of Life Programs for your kids:

Gathering of Youth is a one-and-a-half-day program for teens with disabilities (ages 13 to 22) as part of the Circles of Life Conference. There is no additional fee for this program, but the teen must be registered for the conference (\$100 per child/teen) and a parent or guardian must be onsite at the Holiday Inn.

[Gathering of Youth Registration](#)

COL Sibshop is offered for "typically-developing" children ages 8-12 who have brothers and sisters with developmental disability, special health, or mental health concerns. Sibshop takes place in the conference area on Thursday morning, May 17 from 9 am - noon.

[Sibshop Registration](#)

Date: April 25-27, 2024

Location: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Wisconsin Dells, WI

The conference brings the Autism community together to learn, connect, and belong.

[Employment First Conference 2024: Save the Date | Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities](#)

May 21, 2024

Kalahari Resort

Wisconsin Dells, WI

- Registration Info:
- \$125 Early Bird Rate (ENDS 4.5.24)
- \$175 General Registration (ENDS 5.7.24)
- \$50 for Person with Disabilities and Family Members

All stakeholders are encouraged to attend, including people with disabilities and their family members, service professionals, school staff, and others who support people with disabilities to achieve employment, make connections and contribute to the community. Stay tuned for more details!

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Lohmann at beth.lohmann@MilwaukeeCountywi.gov



WI FACETS March Newsletter

[WI FACETS March 2024 Newsletter](#)

The March Newsletter explores the topic of Early Childhood.

Additional Early Childhood focused resources from WSPEI:

[About Me](#) Share information about your child and family

[Journey to 3!](#) A Transition Roadmap for Families

[Child Find Brochure](#) The Child Find brochure is designed to give parents and caregivers an overview of developmental milestones

[Child Find Frequently Asked Questions](#) What is Child Find? Find out more about the program here

[Intro to Special Ed](#) A family friendly booklet all about Special Education in Wisconsin

[IEP Checklist](#) Be prepared for your IEP meeting with this easy to use resource

[Parent Powered App - Wisconsin Dept of children and families](#) Empowers parents as early learning partners by sparking everyday teachable moments.

[Flier about the Ready4K Text Messaging App](#) FREE resource to help your child stay on track with their learning goals all year long

Wisconsin DPI Special Education Rights for Parents and Children Webpage

Clicking this button will take you to the webpage where you can find the updated Communication Options for Families forms in PDF and fillable Word versions. The PDF is shared here as well:

Communication Options for Families - English

[Communication Options for Families](#)

This form will be available in Spanish and Hmong languages soon

The Family Engagement Survey - Supporting Students with IEPs

One-fifth (20%) of all school districts across the state are required to offer the survey to families each year. Ask your director of special education or pupil services if it's your district's year for the survey.

Surveys have been opened and you may have received one from your school district if it is their year to survey families. Please complete the survey and provide this important feedback!

Here is what you need to know:

DPI will use your answers to give better services to children and youth with IEPs and their families. We need your help to do this. Parent confidentiality is important. Parent names are not connected to the answers given.

The Indicator 8 Family Engagement Survey is a survey for parents of children and youth with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The survey asks how well your school and IEP team engage you and your family in the IEP and special education process. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required to collect this information by federal law.

Learn more about the Indicator 8 Survey at [Indicator 8 - Information for Parents/Families](#)

Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS)

The goal of the Supporting Neurodiverse Students (SNS) Professional Learning System is to support a skills-based approach to challenging behaviors that will improve a student's social understanding and emotional management skills.

Upcoming IN PERSON Learning Events - FREE for Families!

Processing Thinking: Resilience and Flexibility

Students who exhibit behavior that is challenging to adults often struggle with cognitive flexibility and resilience. When the brain lacks access to its ability to gain and send out certain information, it may result in behavior that can look very rigid. In turn a student who is struggling with adapting to adversity may be struggling with resilience. In this training, participants will learn about the components of flexibility, resilience, and how their practice can influence a student's growth in these areas. We will look at the effects of a system that struggles to naturally cope with adversity and how to teach methods to be flexible when our brain wants to be rigid.

Portage - [CESA #5 - Processing Thinking: Resilience and Flexibility - 4/2/24](#)

Chippewa Falls - [CESA #10 - Processing Thinking: Resilience and Flexibility - 4/3/24](#)

West Salem - [CESA #4 - Processing Thinking: Resilience and Flexibility - 4/4/24](#)

Social Communication: Modes and Language

The ability to be a social partner is a complicated system. Many of us learned skills without much conscious awareness because the systems of learning matched the way our brain showed up. When our brain does not take in and process social information in the same way as those around us, it can result in a mismatch within our interactions. In this training we will explore components of how we socially communicate and, when our brain thinks differently, how that can cause a student to be misunderstood, have social mishaps or mismatched interactions. Communication modes and how we communicate in context will be addressed.

Fennimore - [CESA #3 - Social Communication: Modes and Language - 4/22/24](#)

Pewaukee - [CESA #1 - Social Communication: Modes and Language - 4/23/24](#)

Whitewater - [CESA #2 - Social Communication: Modes and Language - 4/29/24](#)

Resource Fairs Around the State

If you don't see a resource fair near where you live, you can ask your child's case manager or school district Special Education Director if one is planned in your area!

Calumet County Transition Resource Fair:

Including presentations will be held at:

Chilton High School, Wednesday, March 13, 4:00-6:00pm

[Franklin School District](#)

[Waukesha County Community on Transition \(C-CoT\)](#)

[MPS Celebrating Abilities](#)

[Racine County Resource Fair](#)

[Racine County Resource Fair-Spanish](#)

Taylor County Transition Day with Reverse Job Fair

Thursday April 25th from 1-3 pm

Medford Area Senior High School

Welcome to come and meet with their transition agencies for what is next after high school, college and career readiness, learn about DVR services, differences between supported decision making and guardianship, learn about SOAR, talk with teachers, get transition guides, and more.

RSVP with Director of Special Education and Student Services Joseph Greget at

gregejo@medford.k12.wi.us or 715-748-2316 ext 3324.



Wisconsin Sibs - Journey Forward

Are you a sibling who is concerned about the day your parents no longer can care for your sibling? Or you've become responsible for your sibling and are unsure about the future and need some answers?

For adults who have a sibling with developmental disabilities or long-term illnesses, the journey together is lifelong. You may already be in a caregiving role or expect to in the future. This program helps you clarify your role, get the planning tools to move forward, and connect with other siblings and local resources that will change your future.

[Information Flier](#)



FYI - Recent Name Change: Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Management Company

As many families of children and youth with special health care needs utilize the transportation provider Veyo, it is important to highlight their recent name change. Starting February 1, 2024 Veyo began transitioning to the MYM name and brand, as they were recently acquired by this company. All ride benefits, contact information, staff, modes of transportation, and methods will remain the same. Some documents and tools will slightly change as they are upgraded through this process of change. Veyo will continue to provide regular updates on their website about the migration to offer a seamless transition.

Visit the website for more information: [Veyo](#)



March 10, 2024 - Daylight Saving Time Starts (set clocks ahead one hour)

Share Your Feedback!

1. Email: wspei@cesa12.org
2. Phone: 833-879-7734

Website: www.wspei.org

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



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