



Special Education Parent Advisory Group January 25, 2022

Presenters:

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Presentation Title: *Introduction to Inclusive Education for Parents: Understanding the What, Why, and How*

General Description: During this Special Education Parent Advisory Group meeting, representatives from the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE) will share an overview of inclusive education. The goal of inclusive education is to ensure all students with and without disabilities receive individualized supports and services as needed to enjoy equitable access to and participation in the general education classroom and reciprocal social relationships. Participants will explore key ideas about why inclusive education is important, what inclusive education looks like in practice, and what it takes to make inclusive education a reality. Participants will also receive tips and tools around how to support inclusive education.

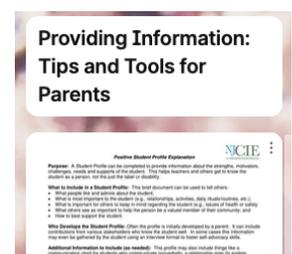
Resources:

- Link to New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education Website
 - <https://www.njcie.org/>
- Link to the NJIETA website:
 - <https://www.njieta.org/>
- Link to Parent Resources: Facilitating Inclusion and Independence Padlet
 - <https://padlet.com/michellelockwood1/c6vaxck5k3jd0zqp>
- Link to Tips and Tools for Managing Behavior Padlet
 - <https://padlet.com/michellelockwood1/5agqxee5n28l9xib>
- Link to Tips and Tools for Supporting Social Emotional Learning
 - <https://padlet.com/michellelockwood1/51rhpzpah4cyh0za>

Quick Take-Away Tips that Support Inclusive Education:

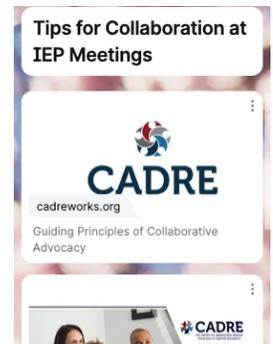
Tip #1: Provide Helpful Information to Your Child's IEP Team

- Any information that helps school personnel understand a child, a child's unique needs, and a family's vision for a fulfilling future is important in developing comprehensive strategies and supports. Parents can help schools by developing a 1-2 page positive profile that works best in providing the right kind of support. This type of profile creates a picture of a child based on capabilities, strengths, interests, and a vision for the future. This information can be used to inform present levels of performance in a child's IEP that are strength-based (i.e., what a child can do). Step-by-step directions for creating a positive profile as well as templates and examples can be found on this [padlet](#).



Tip # 2: Collaboration is Key

- “The evidence is beyond dispute. When schools and families work together to support learning, children can succeed not just in school, but throughout life” (Henderson & Berla, 1997).
- Parents are essential and equal members of the IEP team. When all team members communicate effectively and work together to make important educational decisions, everyone wins. Additional information on collaboration can be found on this [padlet](#).



Tip # 3: Know the Process

- Special education is premised on services and supports being delivered to students. The location in which these services and supports are provided is referred to as placement. The first step in deciding on student placement encompasses identifying student needs, which should be reflected in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Once the IEP team has determined which supports and services are needed to meet unique needs, a decision is made about where they will be provided. Placement decisions should be made after goals and objectives have been developed.
- In determining the best placements for students, discussions should always begin with the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), as preference must be given to general education settings with supplementary aids and services in the school which the student would attend if he or she did not have an IEP.
- Additional information on LRE can be found on this [padlet](#).

