

How Can School Districts Best Support Families Of Children With IEP's Or 504 Plans?

- Have a familiar staff member reach out to families now, even if you do not have a finalized plan, it is important to stay connected.
- Involve parents in the planning process and ask if they have priority areas or ideas.
- Be realistic with the family and ask about specific challenges they are facing now. Offer guidance and support.
- Recognize the focus of learning may need to shift at first to establishing new routines, addressing challenging behaviors. Provide support and understanding of their situation.
- Be patient with their ability to help their children keep up with their work, they may also be trying to balance work-at-home and teaching-at-home. If assignments are not in on time, ask why.
- Families are having trouble accessing Google Classroom and other platforms for a variety of reasons. Make sure the family has passwords, directions for accessing the app or website, and the technology they need to be able to participate in the learning being designed.
- Share resources for connecting with other families dealing with similar circumstances, while maintaining confidentiality. A list of resources is provided later in this document.
- Make available the physical supports the child may use daily such as visuals, tools, token economy, visual schedule, manipulatives, white boards, etc. Make sure parents know how and when to use the tools.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION:

Families need to hear from their child's team. The student's case manager and other related service professionals hold a wealth of information about their child's learning that families may not know. This connection would be much more valuable BEFORE finalizing a plan, as the child's needs at home may look very different than in the classroom.

Communicate in a way that is transparent, frequent, responsive and individualized for their child's needs. Do your parents know....

- How do I help my child to learn?
- With whom and when will I connect?
- How do I reach them if there is a question, issue or concern?
- What accommodations or modifications are needed and when?

Communicate clear expectations for parents and district staff

- What is a priority?
- Will data be taken?
- Who does what and how?
- Is my child being graded?

4-6-2020



Direct Support Resources For Families:

As the Parent Training and Information Center for Connecticut, CPAC asks you to help us to let all of your families know that we are here to support them. Families really benefit when they connect with other families who understand what they are experiencing. For many parents of children with an IEP, school closure due to COVID-19 is very stressful. Having to navigate the volume of available information can create more anxiety. There is so much new information that some parents may have a hard time processing what is true and where to start. Also, as most of the information available is online, the parents who don't have access to technology may call our number and ask to review online resources. When you talk or email a parent, we would ask if you could share these resources with them:

Call for Individual Support

Our Parent Consultants are available to take your calls and will do their best to return calls within 48 hours. Contact us by email at cpac@cpacinc.org, or call us at (860) 739-3089.

Meetings, Calls, and Workshops

Reach Out Virtual Meeting (English): Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.
Register [here](#). (After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.) Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC Facebook page.

CPAC en Español - Parent Support Call in Spanish: Monday-Friday at 1:00 p.m.
Únete a la reunión de [Zoom](#). Marcar por Ubicación +16465588656 Meeting ID: 902254780#. Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC en Español Facebook Group.

CPAC en Español - Workshops in Spanish: Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.
Únete a la reunión de [Zoom](#) Marcar por Ubicación +16465588656 Meeting ID: 742877516#. Or join us on Facebook Live on the CPAC en Español Facebook Group.

All meetings, calls, and workshops will be recorded and posted on our YouTube channel.

Find us on the Web and Social Media:

Visit our [website](#) for updates and resources.

[CPAC Facebook Page](#) You do NOT need to be a Facebook user to access this information

Join our Facebook Groups: You DO need to be a Facebook user
CPAC Resources & Supports, CPAC en Español, CT Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board, and Secondary Transition Resources and Support –

[CPAC Instagram](#) [CPAC You Tube](#) [CPAC Twitter](#) [CPAC Pinterest](#)

Follow our Board titled COVID19 and Special Education Information and Resources [here](#).

4-6-2020

