



Griswold Public Schools

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NOTICE TO PARENTS UPON INITIAL REFERRAL IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC ACT 12-173/INFORMATION ABOUT MEETING; EVALUATIONS; AND IEPs

Dear [PARENT/GUARDIAN/SURROGATE PARENT]:

Your child, [NAME], has been referred to a planning and placement team ("PPT") for consideration of eligibility for special education services. Attached please find the referral form and invitation for a PPT meeting to discuss the referral. If you are unable to attend this meeting at this time/date, please contact my office to reschedule as soon as possible.

Please know that, under Connecticut law, you have the right to request a meeting with a member of the PPT designated by the school district prior to the actual referral PPT in order to discuss the PPT process and/or any concerns that you might have regarding your child. If you would like to schedule a meeting for this purpose, please contact **Mrs. Erin Palonen, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services at 860-376-7650**. To ensure that we are able to schedule this meeting at a time that is mutually convenient, if you plan to request a meeting prior to the PPT, we kindly ask that you contact us as soon as possible.

In addition, at the initial referral PPT meeting, the team may discuss whether formal evaluations and/or assessments may be needed to determine your child's eligibility for special education. Should the team recommend initial evaluations/assessments, the school district will convene another PPT meeting to review the results of those evaluations/assessments. Under state law, you have the right to request that the school district provide you with the results of these initial assessments and evaluations at least three (3) school days before the PPT meeting at which these evaluations will be discussed for the first time. Therefore, in the event the PPT recommends formal evaluations/assessments, please notify **Mrs. Erin Palonen, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services at 860-376-7650** and/or the PPT team if you would like to receive the results of any such evaluations/assessments prior the follow up PPT.

Finally, Connecticut law also requires that school districts provide parents of students found eligible for special education and related services with information and resources, created by the Connecticut State Department of Education (the "Department"), relating to individualized education programs ("IEPs"). Although your child has not yet been determined eligible for special education, the following list of links to information and resources may be helpful in understanding special education and the PPT process. If you are unable to access these websites, or require a hardcopy of either "A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut" or the "IEP Manual and Forms," please contact **Mrs. Erin Palonen, Director of Special Education and Pupil Services at 860-376-7650** to request a copy at the upcoming PPT meeting.

- Bureau of Special Education Resources, <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=320730>
- A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut,
http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/Parents_Guide_SE.pdf
- IEP Manual and Forms (Third Revision October 2010),
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/IEPManual.pdf>
- A Tool to Assist PPTs in Addressing the Unique Communication Needs of Students Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Language and Communication Plan,
http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/Language_Communication_Plan.pdf
- Secondary Transition (Including Building a Bridge: A Transition Manual for Students),
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=322676>
- Helpful CT Resources for Families,
http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/Resources_Families.pdf

If you have any questions, you may contact my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Palonen". The script is cursive and elegant, with the first letters of "Erin" and "Palonen" being capitalized and prominent.

Erin Palonen
Griswold Public Schools
Director of Special Education and Pupil Services