



# **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

## **For Children With Disabilities**

**Department of Special Education**

# WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

- **Sarah Taylor, Director of Special Education**

- Administrative Assistant – Pam Little 770-887-2461 Ext. 202362
- Receptionist – Tricia McCraw 770-887-2461 Ext. 202324
- Bookkeeper – Wanda Rickett 770-887-2461 Ext. 202325
- Records Clerk – Michelle Padgett 770-887-2461 Ext. 202359

- **Lisa Bennett, Assistant Director of Special Education**

- 770-887-2461 Ext. 202321
  - Adaptive PE
  - Alpine
  - Autism
  - DISCOVER
  - Emotional Behavior Disorders
  - Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA)
  - Intellectual Disabilities
  - Preschool
  - Special Olympics
  - Transition
  - Transportation
  - Extended School Year

- **Paul West, Assistant Director of Special Education**

- 770-887-2461 Ext. 202330
  - 504 Plans
  - Assistive Technology
  - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
  - Hospital Homebound
  - Infinite Campus
  - Math Support Programs
  - Orthopedic Impairments
  - Other Health Impaired
  - OT/PT Referrals
  - Reading Support Programs
  - Speech and Language Programs
  - Specific Learning Disabilities
  - Vision Impairments

- **Kristi Quinn, Pre-School Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461, Ext 202534
  - Tricia McCraw, 770-887-2461, Ext 202324
  
- **Susan Darlington, Transition and Special Olympics Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202327
  
- **Kristin Bourrie, Autism Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202328
  
- **Beth Bourneuf, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Forsyth Central High
    - Lambert High
    - North Forsyth High
    - South Forsyth High
    - West Forsyth High
  
- **Sharon Boyd, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202322
    - Daves Creek Elementary
    - Haw Creek Elementary
    - Settles Bridge Elementary
  
- **Dennis Cormier, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Alpine – Middle/High
    - Gateway Academy
    - Liberty Middle
    - Little Mill Middle
    - Piney Grove Middle
  
- **Kristin DeBonis, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Big Creek Elementary
    - Cumming Elementary
    - Matt Elementary
  
- **Jennifer Elwood, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Chattahoochee Elementary
    - Chestatee Elementary
    - Coal Mountain Elementary

- **Tricia Geran, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Brookwood Elementary
    - Johns Creek Elementary
    - Sharon Elementary
    - Vickery Creek Elementary

- **Kim Hendon, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Alpine - Elementary
    - Kelly Mill Elementary
    - Sawnee Elementary
    - Silver City Elementary

- **Melanie Martin, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Midway Elementary
    - Shiloh Point Elementary
    - Whitlow Elementary

- **Liz Seraydarian, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - North Forsyth Middle
    - South Forsyth Middle
    - Vickery Creek Middle

- **Jennifer Sewell, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461
    - Lakeside Middle
    - Otwell Middle
    - Riverwatch Middle

- **Carolyn Tolland, Facilitator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 312720
    - Mashburn Elementary
    - Pre-School Programs

## **A. Special Education Program Options**

A student from 3 through 21 years of age must meet the eligibility criteria in at least one of the following areas in order to qualify for special education:

- **Significant Developmental Delay (SDD)**
  - This area of disability is available for students from ages 3-9 only
- **Intellectual Disability (mild, moderate, severe, profound)**
- **Emotional and Behavior Disorders**
- **Specific Learning Disabilities**
- **Visually Impaired**
- **Deaf/Blind**
- **Speech-Language Impairment**
- **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**
- **Orthopedic Impairment**
- **Other Health Impaired**
- **Traumatic Brain Injury**
- **Autism Spectrum Disorder**

## **B. Related Services**

Related Services are support services that enable the student to benefit from special education. The student must qualify for each related service that is provided for them:

- **Audiology**
- **Physical Therapy**
- **Rehabilitation Counseling**
- **Occupational Therapy**
- **Orientation and Mobility Services**
- **Parent training**
- **Educational Interpreters**
- **Transportation**
- **Other**

### **C. Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**

An IEP is a written plan for each student with a disability that is developed by educators, parents and others as appropriate. It describes the necessary special education and related services that the student needs to benefit from a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE).

### **D. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**

Students with disabilities are educated to the maximum extent appropriate with students who are not disabled. Special classes, schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only if the nature and severity of the disability are such that education in the regular classes cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

### **E. The IEP Team**

Student (as appropriate)

Parents

Special Education Teacher(s) or Provider

A person who can interpret evaluation results

Others with knowledge of special expertise about the child

Local Educational Agency Representative

Transition Services Agency Representative

School System Representative Regular Education Teacher(s)

### **F. Preparing for an IEP Meeting**

- Consider the student's abilities and skills; academic development, language, self-help, behavior, pre-vocational.
- Gather records that might be helpful.
- Research and read.
- Get advice from others who have been to IEP meetings.
- Write down some things you want to cover.

## **G. Typical IEP Meeting Agenda**

- Introduction and review of parent rights
- Concerns of parent
- Strengths of the student
- Present levels of performance
- Special factors
  - Behavior
  - Limited English
  - Visual impairments
- Individual goals and objectives
- Classroom/Program modifications/accommodations
- Testing/Assessment
  - The Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA) must be used for all students who do not participate in state and district wide assessments.
- Assisted Technology needs
- Placement
- Related Services needs
- Extended school year

## **H. Assistive Technology (AT)**

AT is equipment that is used to maintain, increase, or improve the functional capabilities of students with disabilities. The IEP Committee considers whether or not the student requires assistive technology in order to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

## **I. Tips for a Successful IEP Meeting**

- Everyone enter at the same time, seat yourself comfortably.
- Identify all participants and understand their relationship to the student.
- Share ideas.
- Keep the discussion positive.
- Ask questions.
- Ask for additional time to review information if needed.
- Always try to resolve differences within the IEP Team.

## **J. After the IEP Meeting**

- **Write down your thoughts about the IEP and the process. Keep them with your copy of the IEP.**
- **Stay in touch with school personnel.**
- **Visit the student's class.**
- **Be supportive. Consider volunteering in the classroom or elsewhere at the school.**
- **Remember that you may request an IEP meeting at any time during the year.**
- **The student's IEP must be reviewed at least once per year to determine whether the annual goals have been achieved and to revise the IEP if necessary.**



## **SUGGESTED LIST OF BOOKS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

1. *The Complete IEP Guide: How to Advocate for Your Special Child,*  
by Lawrence Siegel, ISBN# 1413300170
2. *Circles of Friends: People with Disabilities and their Friends Enrich  
the Lives of One Another,* by Robert Perske, ISBN#0687083907
3. *Negotiating the Special Education Maze: A Guide for Parents and Teachers,*  
by Winifred Anderson, Stephen Chitwood, Deidre Hayden, ISBN# 0933149727
4. *The Self-Help Guide for Special Kids and Their Parents,* by Joan Matthews,  
James Williams, ISBN# 1853029149
5. *Special Kids Need Special Parents: A Resource for Parents of Children  
With Special Needs,* by Judith Lavin, ISBN# 0425176622
6. *For the Children: Redefining Success in School and Success in Life,*  
by Rob Langston, ISBN#0972380639

# PARENT RESOURCE LIST

## ADVOCACY RESOURCES

- GA Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities (AADD) [www.aadd.org](http://www.aadd.org)  
GA Georgia Advocacy Office [www.thegao.org](http://www.thegao.org)  
GA Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities [www.gcdd.org](http://www.gcdd.org)

## EDUCATION RESOURCES

- GA Forsyth County Schools [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us)  
(On Home Page, select Departments (District Services) Special Education)  
GA Georgia Department of Education [www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)  
Nat'l National Information Ctr for Children and Youth w/Disabilities [www.nichcy.org](http://www.nichcy.org)  
Nat'l Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) [www.osepideasthatwork.org/  
parentkit/](http://www.osepideasthatwork.org/parentkit/)  
Nat'l US Department of Education [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

## EDUCATION RESOURCES – LAW

- Nat'l IDEA <http://idea.ed.gov/>  
Nat'l No Child Left Behind <http://www.ed.gov/nclb/landing.jhtml>

## PARENT RESOURCES

- GA Georgia Learning Resource Systems [www.glr.org](http://www.glr.org)  
GA Metro West Georgia Learning Resources System (MWGLRS) [glrsoffice@mresa.org](mailto:glrsoffice@mresa.org)  
GA Georgia Parent Mentors [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org)  
GA Parent to Parent of Georgia [www.parenttoparentofga.org](http://www.parenttoparentofga.org)  
Nat'l Disability Friendly Colleges [www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com](http://www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com)

## STATE & NATIONAL RESOURCES

- GA GA Department of Human Resources, Division of Public Health  
Babies Can't Wait <http://health.state.ga.us/programs/bcw/idex.asp>  
Nat'l Center for Medicaid & Medicare <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>

## SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

You do not have to do this alone! Support organizations offer the resources and many also offer the emotional support to empower you so that you don't have the feeling of isolation.

|       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
| GA    | American Speech-Language-Hearing Association                                | <a href="http://www.asha.org">www.asha.org</a>                                       |
| GA    | Atlanta Alliance on Developmental Disabilities (AADD)                       | <a href="http://www.aadd.org">www.aadd.org</a>                                       |
| GA    | Autism Society of America/Georgia Chapter                                   | <a href="http://www.asaga.com">www.asaga.com</a>                                     |
| GA    | Better Hearing Institute  | <a href="http://www.betterhearing.org">www.betterhearing.org</a>                     |
| GA    | Brain Injury Association of Georgia   | <a href="http://www.braininjuryga.org">www.braininjuryga.org</a>                     |
| GA    | Center for the Visually Impaired  | <a href="http://www.cviga.org">www.cviga.org</a>                                     |
| GA    | Down Syndrome Assoc of Atlanta  | <a href="http://www.atlantadsaa.org">www.atlantadsaa.org</a>                         |
| GA    | Epilepsy Foundation of Georgia  | <a href="http://www.epilepsyga.org">www.epilepsyga.org</a>                           |
| GA    | FOCUS-Families of Children Under Stress                                     | <a href="http://www.focus-ga.org">www.focus-ga.org</a>                               |
| GA    | Foundation for Medically Fragile Children                                   | <a href="http://www.bwhandicap.com/foundati.htm">www.bwhandicap.com/foundati.htm</a> |
| GA    | Georgia Council for Exceptional Children                                    | <a href="http://www.gacec.org">www.gacec.org</a>                                     |
| GA    | Georgia Council for Hearing Impaired  | <a href="http://www.gachi.org">www.gachi.org</a>                                     |
| GA    | Georgia Parent Support Network – MH   | <a href="http://www.gpsn.org">www.gpsn.org</a>                                       |
| GA    | International Dyslexia Association – Georgia Branch                         | <a href="http://www.idaga.org">www.idaga.org</a>                                     |
| GA    | Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia                                | <a href="http://www.ldag.org">www.ldag.org</a>                                       |
| GA    | Learning Disabilities Online  | <a href="http://www.ldonline.org">www.ldonline.org</a>                               |
| GA    | Parent to Parent of Georgia   | <a href="http://www.parenttoparentofga.org">www.parenttoparentofga.org</a>           |
| GA    | The Spina Bifida Association of Georgia                                     | <a href="http://www.spinabifidaofgeorgia.org">www.spinabifidaofgeorgia.org</a>       |
| Nat'l | Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf                              | <a href="http://www.agbell.org">www.agbell.org</a>                                   |
| Nat'l | American Foundation for the Blind   | <a href="http://www.afb.org">www.afb.org</a>   |
| Nat'l | American Speech-Language-Hearing Association                                | <a href="http://www.asha.org">www.asha.org</a>                                       |
| Nat'l | CHADD – Children and Adults w/Attention/<br>Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorders | <a href="http://www.chadd.org">www.chadd.org</a>                                     |
| Nat'l | Easter Seals: Disability Services   | <a href="http://www.easterseals.com">www.easterseals.com</a>                         |
| Nat'l | Federation for Families for Children's Mental Health                        | <a href="http://www.ffcmh.org">www.ffcmh.org</a>                                     |
| Nat'l | International Fragile X Association   | <a href="http://www.fragilex.org">www.fragilex.org</a>                               |
| Nat'l | National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI)                               | <a href="http://www.nami.org">www.nami.org</a>                                       |
| Nat'l | National Down Syndrome Congress   | <a href="http://www.ndcscenter.org">www.ndcscenter.org</a>                           |
| Nat'l | National Family Association for Deaf-Blind                                  | <a href="http://www.nfadb.org">www.nfadb.org</a>                                     |
| Nat'l | OASIS<br>(Online Asperger Syndrome Information and Support)                 | <a href="http://www.aspergersyndrome.org">www.aspergersyndrome.org</a>               |
| Nat'l | Stuttering Foundation of America  | <a href="http://www.stutteringhelp.org">www.stutteringhelp.org</a>                   |
| Nat'l | United Cerebral Palsy   | <a href="http://www.ucp.org">www.ucp.org</a>   |