



# **INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

## **For Children with Disabilities**

**Department of Special Education**

## WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

- **Sarah Taylor, Director of Special Education**
  - Administrative Assistant – Connie Jennings 770-887-2461 Ext. 202362
  - Receptionist – Tricia McCraw 770-887-2461 Ext. 202324
  - Bookkeeper – Leah Finch 770-887-2461 Ext. 202325
  - Records Clerk – Charlene Northcutt 770-887-2461 Ext. 202359
  
- **Kristin Bourrie, Assistant Director of Special Education**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202328
    - Autism
    - Emotional Behavior Disorders
    - Behavior Specialist
    - GNETS
  
- **Dawn Bush, Assistant Director of Special Education**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202321
    - Adaptive PE
    - Assistive Technology
    - Intellectual Disabilities
    - Orthopedic Impairments
    - Occupational Therapy/Physical Therapy Referrals
  
- **Paul West, Assistant Director of Special Education**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202330
    - 504
    - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
    - Hospital Homebound
    - Other Health Impaired
    - Speech and Language Programs
    - Specific Learning Disabilities
    - Vision Impairments
  
- **Kristi Quinn, Preschool Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461, Ext 312719
  - Mary VanBavel, 770-887-2461, Ext. 310100
    - Preschool
    - Extended School Year
  
- **Susan Darlington, Transition Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 202327
  - Project LIFE
  - Testing Accommodations
  - Vocational Rehabilitation
  
- **Tricia Geran, Autism Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461 Ext. 2202304
  - Autism
  
- **Kara Hudspeth, Compliance Coordinator**
  - 770-887-2461, Ext. 203390

Facilitator	Schools	Facilitator	Schools
<b>Beth Enns</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 20343	Little Mill Middle Piney Grove Middle	<b>Melanie Martin</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203339	Brookwood Elementary Shiloh Point Elementary
<b>Matt Crawford</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203402	Riverwatch Middle Denmark High West Forsyth High	<b>Kristen Massoni</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203394	Johns Creek Elementary Sharon Elementary
<b>Joey Darragh</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203391	DeSana Middle Lakeside Middle	<b>Ashley Millard</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203337	Liberty Middle North Forsyth Middle
<b>Kristin DeBonis</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203365	Coal Mountain Elementary Sawnee Elementary	<b>Karen Nemetz</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 202365	Big Creek Elementary ACE South Forsyth Middle
<b>Jen Elwood</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203303	Chestatee Elementary Cumming Elementary	<b>Elvin Parra</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203336	Otwell Middle Vickery Creek Elementary Whitlow Elementary
<b>Carrie Grome</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 202304	Haw Creek Elementary Midway Elementary	<b>Jennifer Sewell</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203335	North Forsyth High South Forsyth High Alliance Academy
<b>Cyndi Johnson</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203020	Vickery Creek Middle Forsyth Central High Lambert High	<b>Heather Taft</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 204401	Chattahoochee Elementary Settles Bridge Elementary
<b>Stephanie Lutin</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203392	Matt Elementary Silver City Elementary	<b>Carolyn Tolland</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 312720	Preschool
<b>Brandy Mann</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203332	Daves Creek Elementary Kelly Mill Elementary	<b>Lisa Williams</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 203393	Brandywine Elementary Mashburn Elementary

<b>Ashley Paer</b> 770-887-2461 Ext. 202302	Special Assignment 2019-2020
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**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:

tion:

- **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 Council on Developmental Disabilities for GA [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) or  
[www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org)  
Nat'l National Information Center 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.p2pga.org](http://www.p2pga.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 GA	<a href="https://www.autismsocietyga.org/">https://www.autismsocietyga.org/</a>
GA	Autism Society of America/Autism Speaks	<a href="http://www.autismspeaks.org">www.autismspeaks.org</a>
GA	Georgia Aspergers Organization	<a href="http://www.georgiaaspergersorganization.org/">http://www.georgiaaspergersorganization.org/</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.braininjurygeorgia.org">www.braininjurygeorgia.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.dsaatl.org">www.dsaatl.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	Fragile Kids Foundation	<a href="http://www.fragilekids.org">www.fragilekids.org</a>
GA	Council for Exceptional Children	<a href="http://community.cec.sped.org/ga">http://community.cec.sped.org/ga</a>
GA	Georgia Council for Hearing Impaired	<a href="http://www.gachi.org">www.gachi.org</a>
GA	Georgia Parent Support Network	<a href="http://www.gpsn.org">http://www.gpsn.org</a>
GA	International Dyslexia Association – Georgia Branch	<a href="http://www.idaga.org">http://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.p2pga.org">www.p2pga.org</a>
GA	The Spina Bifida Association of Georgia	<a href="http://www.spinabifidaga.org">www.spinabifidaga.org</a>
Nat'l	Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf	<a href="http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.org">http://www.listeningandspokenlanguage.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/ 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.ndscenter.org">www.ndscenter.org</a>
Nat'l	National Family Association for Deaf-Blind	<a href="http://www.nfadb.org">www.nfadb.org</a>
Nat'l	OASIS (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>