



# NEXT STEPS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2009

Dear Parent Advisors,

CPAC has many activities and events scheduled for this coming year. Please take a look at the listing of attached upcoming events as well as the featured trainings listed here. We also plan to move forward with many more IEP clinics and hope that many of you are willing to help for one evening. Please call with any questions you may have about your child's program or for volunteer opportunities.

~ Jane

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## UPCOMING NEXT STEPS SERIES

Next STEPS is coming to New Haven this fall! Please share this information with any parents or professionals who might be interested.



We have added a fourth session on Parent Leadership, which is open to all previous Next STEPs participants. It covers understanding data at the school, district and state levels that may impact student programming. This session allows participants to gain a better understanding of how they may participate in bringing about systems change to benefit all students.

### NEXT STEPS ONGOING TRAINING

CPAC will be offering many opportunities for Parent Advisors to continue their training. Please call or e-mail CPAC to register!

#### **Positive Behavior Supports**

**Danbury - October 14th**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Danbury War Memorial**

**1 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT**

#### **Transition**

**Middletown - October 15th**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Dekoven House Community Center  
27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT**

*CPAC will offer both of these trainings in the Spring at other locations. Please call for more information.*

### **KEEPING THE CONNECTION**

The CPAC website is being updated and will have a new section dedicated to our Next STEPs Parent Advisors. We would like everyone to know there is a place to visit on the web to stay informed and share information with other participants they met during the training.

To get this started, we would like to add some family photos and stories. Soon you will be able to see a few examples of family stories shared by CPAC staff who also attended Next STEPs.

Please feel free to email or mail photos and stories!

Email: [cpac@cpacinc.org](mailto:cpac@cpacinc.org) or hard copies can be sent to:  
**CPAC, 338 Main St., Niantic, CT 06357**



**Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center**

338 Main Street, Niantic, CT 06357 • 800-445-2722 • [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)

E-mail: [cpac@cpacinc.org](mailto:cpac@cpacinc.org) • New Haven Office: 203-776-3211



## CHANGES TO SECTION 504

Enclosed you will find information on the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendment. This is particularly important as it also amends Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The good news is the amendment made Section 504 more inclusive to cover more students and offer greater protections. This is critical information if you have a child with a 504 plan or are supporting others with one.

If you have questions on this document please call and ask for Sally.

### LEARNING DISABILITIES GUIDELINES:

[Click here to view the new release of the Executive Summary for LD Guidelines!](#)

#### IEP CLINICS

CPAC is planning to hold three IEP Clinics in the fall, and three in the spring. Currently we have already scheduled for the fall:

**Danbury – October 6, 2009**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

**Danbury War Memorial**

**1 Memorial Drive, Danbury, CT**

**Please check the upcoming E-Blast or the website for future dates coming to Middletown and New Haven.**

*We are hoping to bring the spring clinics to Bridgeport, Vernon and Killingly.*

**Next STEPs VOLUNTEERS are needed for two hours on one evening for ALL of these events. Please contact Jane to volunteer.**

#### CPAC TRANSITION EVENTS\*\*\*

Three different transition sessions will be held in Norwich at the Dime Bank (290 Salem Turnpike, Norwich, C.T.)

***Space is limited and registration is required!***

Call 800-445-2722 or e-mail cpac@cpacinc.org to register.

##### Self Advocacy

October 6th from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

##### Preparing Students for Work

October 22nd from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

##### Preparing Students for College

November 14th from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

\*\*\* The state is required to work on increasing the "Percent of youth aged 16 and above with an IEP that includes coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals and transition services that will reasonably enable the student to meet the postsecondary goals" through Indicator 13 on the State Performance Plan

#### LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

The P.J. v. State of Connecticut Settlement Agreement has put a spotlight on the issue of Least Restrictive Environment for students with intellectual disabilities. With this focus of attention and effort comes a new procedure for determining the level of concern and need for each district with respect to the Settlement Agreement. These determinations, based on district data have just been released and is available online, please take a moment to look at your district's determination. If you have any questions please feel free to call us.

[www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/SA/Determination\\_Process.pdf](http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/SA/Determination_Process.pdf)

**There are four categories of determinations that districts may be assigned into:**

**A) Meets Requirements, B) Needs Assistance,  
C) Needs Intervention, or D) Needs Substantial Intervention**

**\*\*\*If you are unable to access any online document please call CPAC to obtain a copy\*\*\***

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