



# NEXT STEPS UPDATE

DECEMBER 2008

Happy Holidays Parent Advisors!

Congratulations on making it this far into the school year! I have put together some information for you all to read while you are home enjoying the holiday season. Hopefully this information will help prepare you for the remainder of the school year. Please feel free to share this information with other parents or anyone who may be interested! Happy Holidays!

- Jane

**Featured Resource!**

**Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc.**  
[www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com)

As a result of our last newsletter topic "Focus on Behavior" we received some input from a Board Certified Behavior Analyst in Connecticut. He shared with us the non-profit organization, Behavior Analyst Certification Board, which certifies individuals as Behavior Analysts so parents and school districts can find highly qualified professionals when a Functional Behavioral Analysis (FBA) is needed for a student.

Since CPAC frequently hears that FBA's that are performed are not always of high quality, we felt this was a great resource to share with parents. We also get many requests from parents who are looking to find a professional to do an FBA. When you visit the website, click on "**consumer information**," scroll down to "**Certificant Registry**" and enter Connecticut in the state search field. This will bring up a list of Board Certified Behavioral Analysts across the state for you to look through.

There are several levels of certification, as well as specialties, so it would be helpful to know exactly what credentials you are seeking before searching the list. You are welcome to call CPAC for help in this if you need it.



## RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION

The State Board of Education recently approved the proposed changes to the regulations concerning restraint and seclusion in public schools. These proposed changes then move on to the office of the Attorney General for review and, if approved, to the Regulations Review Committee of the General Assembly. The regulations will not be effective until filed with the Secretary of the State.

According to the Commissioner of Education in a letter dated December 3, 2008, the State Department of Education will develop a plain language notice to advise parents of the laws and regulations concerning the use of physical restraint and seclusion as well as a common incident report form to be used in all Connecticut school districts. The department will also develop a guidance document to assist school districts in the appropriate implementation of these regulations.

***To see the language of these proposed changes please go to the "What's New" section of our website:***  
[www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org)



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Announcement from the State Department of Education,  
Bureau of Special Education publication, "The Bureau Bulletin November '08":

**The State Department of Education will be hosting training on the new Learning Disabilities Guidelines in six locations across Connecticut during the month of January.**

**When released, these dates will be posted on our website, [www.cpacinc.org](http://www.cpacinc.org) as well as in "The Bureau Bulletin" which can be found on [www.sde.ct.gov](http://www.sde.ct.gov) under Special Education Resources.**



## IEP CLINIC SUCCESS!



All Parent Advisors and parent participants in the Windham and Waterbury IEP Clinics declared the events successful. Our data collection showed that all Parent Advisors agreed that:

- *I helped the participants better understand the IEP*
- *I was adequately prepared for the IEP Clinic*
- *I now feel more confident to help parents understand the IEP in the future*



Some of their personal comments included:

- "Showing parents the link between goals and present levels was very useful."
- "It's a great idea! I wish I could have gone to one in the beginning."



It is very important to us that our Parent Advisors feel prepared and confident. Additionally we want their efforts to be meaningful, and our data collection showed that the participants agreed that they were very much appreciated. The participants all agreed that:

- *The information I received was of high quality.*
- *The parent advisors were knowledgeable and helpful.*
- *I now have a better understanding of the IEP*



When participants were asked which part was most helpful, some of their responses included:

- *"Going through the IEP specifically, I never understood it, I felt like the school always rushed through."*
- *"Review and suggestions for improving our son's IEP."*
- *"BRS (Bureau of Rehabilitation Services) – How to handle transition."*
- *"Future considerations as my son gets into grade school."*



**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE PARENT ADVISORS WHO MADE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS: Robin Grondahl, Michelle Bidwell, Maribel Ortiz, Susan Petrok, Laura Knapp, Ann Rose, Ruth Nuss, and CPAC Staff Member Sherri Edgar.**



*To those of you who have expressed an interest in participating – WE WILL BE SCHEDULING MORE! Thanks for your offers of assistance, I will be in touch as locations and dates are identified.*

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