



## St. Joseph County Intermediate School District

*Building Better Futures for Children and Communities*

Superintendent: Teresa L. Belote, Ed.D.

62445 Shimmel Road, Centreville, MI 49032

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES : Phone: 269-467-5400 / PATHFINDER: Phone: 269-467-5454

[www.sjcisd.org](http://www.sjcisd.org)

### PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

We are a group of parents whose children currently receive Special Education services in several different eligibility categories and several different school districts throughout the county. The St. Joseph County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) can help you gain information to help you understand Special Education. Our function is to help parents understand special education regulations, help advise administration with the delivery of services, and to help parents settle differences in the delivery of services.

#### Goals of Our Committee

- To let you know that we exist.
- To increase your awareness of this committee and keep you informed of what we are working on.
- To take a more active role in monitoring, and evaluating programs, student and family needs.
- To offer invitations to students and parents who would like to come and speak at PAC meetings.
- To offer forums and in-service opportunities for students, parents, and service providers.
- To promote Special Education improvement.
- To be available to help you improve communication with professionals involved with your child.
- To act as liaisons between you and your school district.

You will be invited to attend your child's IEP this year. The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) would like to share some information about the process with you. We hope to help answer some of your questions and help you to be an equal partner in planning your child's school program.

As the parent, you know your child better than anyone else, so what you have to say is valuable. During the IEP, you will be asked for your opinion about your child's strengths, learning styles, interests, and future goals. On the back of this document, there are "Hints for Preparing for an IEP Meeting". Take a few minutes before the meeting to prepare the questions you have for the team and the information you want to share with the team.

Thank you for your help and continued cooperation. If you have any questions about special education, or if you would like information about joining PAC, please contact one of the PAC

members or the St. Joseph County ISD @ 269-467-5400. Our goal is that your child is successful now and in the future.

Parents are experts. Your ideas and input are important!

## HINTS FOR PREPARING FOR AN IEP MEETING

At your child's IEP, you will be considering what kind of services or help your child needs. General education and special education teachers will be working together along with you to ensure that the level of services match to what you decide is the level of service your child needs to succeed in school. A description of these levels is included in your Special Education Parent Handbook.

### THINK ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S:

- Strengths
- Interests
- Needs

Has anything happened at home that would affect school?

### GOALS

What needs to be worked on this year?

Be prepared to discuss:

- How much help is needed?
- What kind of help is needed?
- Which subjects does your child need help in?
- What will the general education teacher do?
- What will the special education teacher do?
- Will the teaching and learning take place in a special education room, general education room, or both?
- Does the instruction need to be adapted and modified?

### ASSESSMENTS

- What kind of state and district assessments will be given?
- When will the assessments be taken?
- What, if any, accommodations are needed?

### TRANSITION IEP - STUDENT IS 16 YEARS AND OLDER

What are your child's hopes and dreams after school is finished?

What is needed in the areas of:

- Education
- Community
- Daily living skills
- Employment

Who will help be responsible to make the goals happen?

What is needed and who is going to do it?

## Special Education Categories

### Autism Spectrum Disorder(ASD)

Children who have a significant impairment in social and communication skills

### Cognitive Impairment (CI)

Children who are delayed in their intellectual development

### Deaf- Blindness(DB)

Children whose hearing and visual impairments cause severe communication and other developmental and educational needs

### Early Childhood Development Delay(ECDD)

Children through age seven whose impairments cannot be identified under any other category.

### Emotional Impairment(EI)

Children whose behaviors interfere with their learning

### Deaf or Hard of Hearing(DHH)

Children who are deaf or hard of hearing

### Learning Disability

Children who have disorders in the process of learning.

### Other Health Impairment (OHI)

Children who have health impairments that interfere with learning

## **Physical Impairment(PI)**

Children who have physical impairments that interfere with learning

## **Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI)**

Children who have mental and physical impairments.

## **Speech and Language Impairment(SLI)**

Children who have not developed appropriate speech and language

## **Traumatic Brain Injury(TBI)**

Children who have an acquired injury to the brain that interferes with learning

## **Visual Impairment(VI)**

Children who are blind or partially sighted.