Supporting School/Family Communication

CPAC Programs To Support Effective Communication And Build Parent-School Partnerships

CPAC
Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center
Connecticut’s Resource for Children with Disabilities; EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING FAMILIES
Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center

- The information in this workshop is brought to you by the Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC)
- Connecticut’s federally funded Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center
- CPAC is a statewide non-profit organization that offers information and support regarding special education law to families of children with disabilities.
- These programs are run with the support and cooperation of the Bureau of Special Education
Supporting Communication and Partnerships

- Individualized Programs
  - Effective Conversations
  - Preschool Pathfinders

- District Level Partnerships
  - Special Education Advisory Councils (SEACs)
  - Working Together
Effective Conversations

• Not Advocacy

• Identify and address communications problems

• Relationship building

• Subject to triage

• May include PPT Participation
Preschool Pathfinders

- Birth to Three and preschool referrals
- Again, not advocacy
- Triage
- Requires approval and consent
- 30 thus far
Working Together

• Supported systemwide communication
  – Collaboration
  – Outreach (Spanish, …)
• Team Building
• Dual capacity Training
Special Education Advisory Councils

- Formal District Entity

- Legislatively mandated in other states (MA, NJ, MN)

- 3 Pilot Districts with established SEACs
  - Rocky Hill
  - Canterbury
  - Norwalk
Special Education Advisory Councils

• Advise the Board of Education on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities.
  – Annual Report

• Advisory vs. Governing

• Council of stakeholders
  - Parents of students with disabilities (At least half)
  - Educators
  - Community members
  - Students*
Special Education Advisory Councils

- Expanding the SEAC Program in partnership with the BSE
- Possible Collaboration with CT Parent School Partnership
- Windsor Locks has been approved by their BOE
- Possible Regional SEACs
SEACs

• Require BOE approval
  - Advisory Opinions
  - Annual Report

• Each SEAC designs their own by-laws and membership

• At least 4 Full Council Meetings Annually
CPAC SEAC Support

• Support, coaching and technical assistance with:

  • - Development and recruitment of SEAC
  • - Creating framework and structures of SEAC
  • - Meeting and workgroup facilitation
  • - Developing parent leaders
  • - Communication and building authentic partnerships
Questions?
Suggestions?

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