



Catch the Buzz ...



Create a formal Partnership Team for Student Success in Special Education.

Recommendations for strategies to adapt while establishing Partnership Teams for Student Success in Special Education:

- **Create** structure and identity embedded across the school district community for birth through transition from school.
- **Capitalize** on parents strengths to build Team organizational capacity.
- **Recruit** parents who have leadership skill or potential.
- **Collaborate** with school and special education administrators and staff, service providers, and families.
- **Provide** input on school policy and programs relating to special education.
- **Raise** disability and special education awareness at school and in the community.
- **Reach** out and engage parents, including parents from diverse backgrounds.
- **Support** parents through resources, information, and advocacy.

Recommendations for parent leaders in special education:

- **Create** clear goals and objectives for parent involvement so that new members understand what is expected and what they can offer.
- **Offer** a broad support to welcome, support and accommodate parents who have different needs.
- **Connect** parents to and help them **utilize** existing resources that can provide training, information and support to parents of children with special needs.

Real life: From a parent who attended a workshop co-sponsored by Moultonborough School District and NH Connections, "This was great information! When my son first entered into special education years ago, it would have been great to have this information instead of having to learn it over the years. Thank you so much." Visit www.nhconnections.blogspot.com.



NH Connections is a project funded by the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education to provide support to educators, parents, and service providers in their efforts to improve educational outcomes while meeting the unique needs of all students.

NH Connections offers facilitation services, technical assistance, and professional development to establish and sustain partnerships in school districts and local school communities.

Through Regional Support Networks, district partnerships share and exchange knowledge and experiences.



Establish a Partnership Team for Student Success in Special Education today! Analyze the results of the Parent Involvement Survey, soon available for your school district community.

Strategies to Analyze Parent Survey Data:

Review the district response rate.

- Does the district need to create strategies to improve how many surveys are returned?
- How did the district provide the surveys to their parents in previous year?
- Are there additional ways that may boost returns?

Review the percentage for each item:

- Explanation of the statewide parent survey percentage is located on the NHDOE website.
- Which questions did the district score lowest or below the target?
- What strategies could the district incorporate that would raise the percentage next year?

Two GREAT activities for your team!

Welcome the voices of your partners. Have fun in the process. **1. Plan a team** meeting to create conversations to address the lower 30%. **Invite** all partners to create Action Plans. **2. Plan now** to increase response for next year's survey. **Call NHC today!**

The 2009 survey shows

ongoing efforts schools are making to support parents. For example, 96% of parents said they were given information about their rights and 91% said they were comfortable asking questions and expressing concerns to school staff.

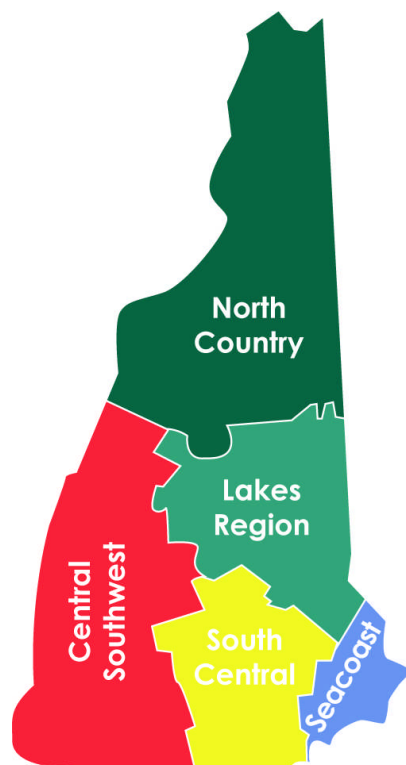
The NHDoE, Bureau of Special Education also learned that only 43% of parents had been offered training about special education issues and 47% said they had been helped with finding resources in their community.

The survey is an important tool to help us understand where the system's strengths and gaps are.

NH Connections is connected to your community. Please call to find out how we can help your school community.

NH CONNECTIONS STAFF

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Parent Involvement Survey

Highlights from the 2008-2009 Parent Involvement Statewide Survey Results Report:

- In 2009 there was a dramatic increase in the percentage of parents who indicated that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving special education services and results for children with disabilities.
 - * from 53% to 57% among preschool parents;
 - * from 30% to 43% among school age parents, and
 - * from 32% to 45% among preschool and school age parents combined.
- These positive results are directly correlated and attributed to the cooperation and collaboration of NH school districts and NH parent organizations to support the successful administration of the survey to over 33,000 parents of children receiving special education services.

The Department of Education supports you in your efforts to promote parent and school partnerships necessary to support children receiving special education.

Moving forward for student success with family engagement ...

We are meeting where?

Join the national webinar addressing the *NH Results of the Parent Involvement Survey* with Mary Lane, NHDOE and Deborah Rosato, NH Connections. How is Alaska and NH similar? November 24, 2009, 2 – 4pm.

TIPS to create family engagement in special education

Partnership Teams for Student Success in Special Education can meet to create Action Plans to address the Parent Involvement Survey statements.

Statewide results show opportunities for districts to:

1. Provide resource lists with afterschool programs, social services, etc.
2. Offer parents trainings about special education issues. Invite educators and the community.

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