



NH Connections provides technical assistance, workshops, forums, and resources to schools/ school districts and parents of children with disabilities to enhance strategies to support parent involvement in schools.

Services for Schools/School Districts

- Individual and group technical assistance for schools/school districts to help you with parent involvement in special education offering research based information, printed materials, and suggested readings.
- Face to face and webinar workshops on parent involvement, parent/professional communication, strategies to create and maintain partnerships, parent leadership, SPP/APR: Indicator B-8, and more! Scheduled upon request of school district personnel or through Regional Support Networks.
- Train parents of children with disabilities to become parent leaders in your district. The Parent Leadership Series is offered five times during the 2009-2010 school year.
- Regional forums for parents and professionals to share strategies of parent involvement
- Technical assistance to help your school, district, or parent support group to create and maintain effective parent/teacher groups for special education
- Technical assistance to improve SPP/APR: Indicator B-8 and to improve results of the Parent Involvement Survey
- Resources on parent involvement in special education
 - Website with a wealth of information, toolkits, and materials
 - Catch the Buzz Enews letter – sharing of effective parent involvement strategies
 - *Family Guide to NH Special Education Process* booklet
 - *Partnership for Student Success in Special Education* guide
 - Specialist speakers
 - List of ongoing activities and events happening in regions throughout the state
 - Stories and best practices on the nhconnections.blogspot that are happening in regions

Resources on family involvement in special education

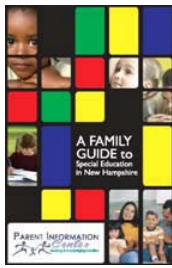


NH Connections website

A wealth of information is provided on the nhconnections.org website. Topics include parent involvement topics and the ways to create and maintain partnerships between schools/school districts and parents of children with disabilities. The website includes information, toolkits, tips, sample templates, forms, and simple assessment checklists.

Enews

Receive Catch the Buzz, an Enews letter from NH Connections which provides strategies to enhance partnerships and parent involvement in special education. Research based information providing strategies on topics of parent involvement delivered directly to your inbox. Add your name to the distribution list through the regional facilitator or through the nhconnections.org website.



A Family Guide to Special Education in New Hampshire

The Parent Information Center on Special Education, in collaboration with NH Connections, has developed a new resource for families. **A Family Guide to Special Education in New Hampshire** is an easy-to-read overview of the special education process and includes questions parents can ask to help them better participate. Download a copy of the guide from the NH Connections website. Include the **Family Guide** on your school/school district website.



Partnerships for Student Success in Special Education (P4SSinSE): A practical guide to partnerships in action.

The Partnerships for Student Success in Special Education (P4SSinSE) guide was developed by NH Connections to support parent groups, and PTA/PTOs to successfully connect families, schools, and communities, in creating a welcoming environment, to engage family involvement for the success of students in special education. The Partnership for Student Success in Special Education guide includes Information sheets and other resources that provide step by step guidance to foster the health and sustainability of your group.

Forums on Parent Involvement

Regional forums sponsored by NH Connections Regional Support Networks provide the opportunity for school faculty, parents of children with disabilities, and community service providers to share information on parent involvement in special education. The input gathered at the forums help to set priorities to address identified needs and increase parent involvement in the special education process. Call the Director or the Region Facilitator to find out when your region is holding a forum on parent involvement in special education.

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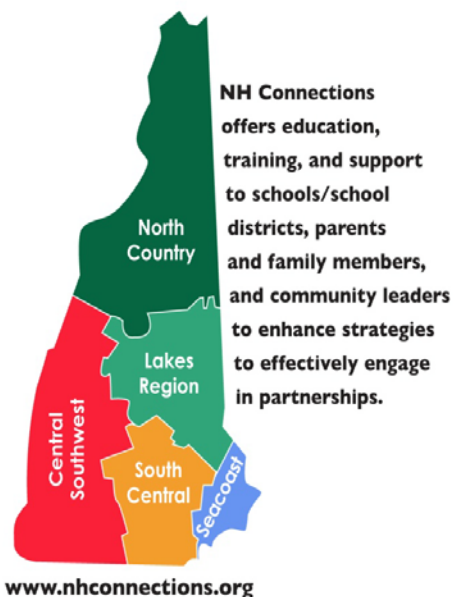
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WORKSHOPS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND PARENTS

NH Connections provides professional development to create and maintain partnerships in special education by giving educators and parents the skills to be an effective partner in a child's education. Workshops attended by school personnel and parents address shared interests. Workshops provided by NH Connections include *Parents and Educators Working Together*, *Expanding Parent Involvement in Children's Education*, *Partnership for Student Success in Special Education*, *Effective Communication and School-Family-Community Partners*, *District Partnership Team for Special Education*. Additional workshops are being developed. Workshops are held face to face or through a webinar.

Benefits to a District: When opportunities are provided for school personnel and parents:

- Educators and parents will gain the skills for effective communication to increase their comfort level as they work with each other.
- Educators and parents will develop their shared interests.
- Educators and parents will gain respect for one another as they learn to understand each others' situations.
- Educators and parents will learn the tools to create goals and action plans to address the priorities of the district.
- Educators and parents will develop the skills to implement effective two way communication.

School personnel and parents who wish to develop their skills want to know...

- ✓ Teacher: How can I truly understand where the parent is coming from?
- ✓ Parent: How can I understand the teacher's needs and help the school district for all children in special education?
- ✓ Teacher: How can I work with difficult parents?
- ✓ Parents: How can I work with a teacher who seems to be difficult?
- ✓ Teacher: What is the best way to tell a parent to be involved in their child's education?
- ✓ Parent: How can I explain to the teacher that I am doing the best that I can for my child?

Workshops available to districts:

Parents and Educators Working Together (2 hour session)

This workshop will help parents and educators to work together effectively to support student learning. The workshop includes tips on successful parent/teacher conferences, the importance of two-way communication and shared responsibilities in the education of children.

Expanding Parent Involvement in Children's Education (2 hour session)

This workshop offers a blueprint for developing parent involvement strategies and practices which can lead to increased student achievement. Through interactive activities, parents and educators will plan the first steps in the development of comprehensive and effective parent/school/community partnerships.

Effective Communication and School-Family-Community Partners (2 hour session)

This workshop is highly interactive that will help school personnel and parents of children with disabilities to understand interpersonal skills.

Partnership for Student Success in Special Education (2 hour session)

The P4SS workshop includes a power point presentation and a ready-to-use guide to equip you to develop and support advisory groups, parent support groups and special education groups toward increased performance and sustainability.

District Partnership Team for Special Education (one day session)

This one day workshop will provide the opportunity to learn how your district can create and maintain a partnership team in special education. Attendees leave the workshop with a customized action plan for the next school year. Their plans identify their goals and objectives and how they will develop family and community involvement programs to support special education topics.

PARENT LEADERSHIP SERIES

Parent Leadership Series

The Parent Leadership Series gives parents of children with disabilities skills to assume leadership positions on their children's school teams and on parent support groups.

Benefits to a District: Develop parents as leaders and:

- Parents will be equipped to help other parents understand and navigate the special education system.
- Parents will understand the district position of special education issues and topics.
- Parents will support the district at school board meetings.
- Parents can nurture collaboration among parents and educators.
- Parents will be adept at identifying the school needs and figuring out what needs to be done and who is able to enlist, advocate for, and represent other parents on behalf of the school's students.
- Parents can act as a bridge between educators and parents.
- Parents can work with school administrators and teachers.
- Parents can offer themselves as a resource to teachers and administrators.

Strategies offered by NH Connections are developed research based methods to give parents the skills necessary to make the most of each relationship with educators, school administrators, community members, and other parents.

Parents who wish to become leaders in their school want to know...

- ✓ How does the special education process work and what's my role?
- ✓ How can I develop a shared vision with other partners?
- ✓ How do we develop action plans to address the goals?
- ✓ How do I develop effective strategies to communicate and collaborate?
- ✓ How can I enhance my strategies to understand cultural differences?
- ✓ Do I have to be knowledgeable about the subjects my children are learning in school?
- ✓ How can I help the school and develop my skills to work with school personnel?

Components of the Parent Leadership Series include:

The Basics—An Overview of the NH Special Education Process: State & District

This session provides participants with an introduction to the NH special education process. It includes a brief overview of each step, a description of the important role parents have in the process, and how to navigate the special education system in your district.

Rising to the Leadership Challenge

Parents will learn to understand and use exemplary leadership practices; develop a shared vision; mobilize and enlist others to act; understand the roles and responsibilities of members within a partnership; and celebrate every success!

Developing Effective Partnership Teams

This session teaches how to set SMART goals; develop effective Action Plans; understand the basic principles of partnership; understand the stages of partnership development; develop strategies for effective communication and collaboration; and obtain official funding and support.

Me, You, Us and Them: Diversity in Practice

The goal of this session is to increase awareness, knowledge and skills required to function effectively in team and community settings with cultural, ethnic, gender and generational differences.

Parents and Educators Working Together

Effective and frequent parent-teacher communication is essential for ensuring your child's academic success. This session teaches parents how to: understand positions vs. interests as a means to mediate conflict; develop a variety of effective home/school communication strategies; and prepare for successful parent/teacher conferences.

Taking the Next Step

The final session will give participants an opportunity to apply what they have learned by choosing a project — large or small — and developing an action plan individually or in partnership with others. We will also celebrate the graduates of the Parent Leadership Series.

