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A Collaborative Webinar Series



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DARS Transition Services: An Overview

with Erin Wilder, Statewide Transition Specialist for DARS Division of Rehabilitation Services

January 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

This webinar presentation will provide an overview of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services Vocational Rehabilitation/Transition Program, including how we partner with schools as part of this program. How and when to apply for services will be discussed. We will also explain changes that are in progress as a result of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

About the Presenter: Erin Wilder, M.Ed., C.R.C. is the Statewide Transition Specialist for the DARS Division for Rehabilitation Services. She has worked for DARS for 13 years as a Vocational Rehab Counselor, Regional Transition Specialist, and her current position. She serves on several committees related to transition, including a Governor-appointed position on the Continuing Advisory Committee for Special Education.

Preparing Students with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities for Postsecondary Education

with DeAnn Lechtenberger, PhD., Burkhart Center for Autism at Texas Tech University

February 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

This webinar will provide families with information on how to begin working with their young adults to prepare them for entering college. Information on three programs at Texas Tech University will be shared with participants - Project CASE: Connections for Academic Success and Employment, the Burkhart Transition Academy, and TechWorks for Texas - Project SEARCH.

About the Presenter: DeAnn Lechtenberger has worked in the field of special education at the local community, state and federal levels for over 30 years. She is the Director of Technical Assistance and Community Outreach, and a Research Assistant Professor in the Burkhart Center at Texas Tech. She is also the Director of Project CASE, a high school to college transition program, and TechWorks for Texas - Project SEARCH, a statewide high school transition program for students with developmental disabilities. She has a Ph.D. in Special Education Leadership with a minor in Behavior Analysis.

Office for Civil Rights 101: A General Overview of OCR Jurisdictional Authority

Presented by the US Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

March 29, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

This webinar will provide a basic understanding of the role of the Office for Civil Rights in our education system. Your rights under Section 504 and Title 2, as well as "How to file a complaint with OCR", will be discussed.

Demystifying Special Education Dispute Resolution: An Insider's Perspective of Special Education Dispute Resolution Procedures

with presenter Deborah Heaton McElvaney, Attorney-at-Law

April 19, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

This webinar will provide a unique opportunity to discuss and probe special education dispute resolution procedures from the perspective of a former Special Education Hearing Officer, Mediator, and current legal advocate for families of children with disabilities who navigate the public school system in Texas.

About the Presenter: Deborah Heaton McElvaney has a background as a public school teacher, a Section 504 Hearing Officer, a Special Education Hearing Officer, and a Special Education Mediator. Serving as a Special Education Hearing Officer for the State of Texas for 18 years, she presided over hundreds of due process matters, conducted dozens of due process hearings, and authored written decisions following each hearing. As a Special Education Mediator, she worked with parents and districts to reach an amicable resolution of disputes without the need for a due process hearing. In January 2015, she opened her own practice focusing on special education law, civil appellate law, and dispute resolution.

For questions or information about this webinar series, contact Brenda Nelson, bnelsonprnteam@sbcglobal.net, 979-616-0393

"The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the US Department of Education, H328M120025 (PEN), H328M120026 (TEAM), & H328M120027 (PATH).

However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Dept of Ed, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government." Project Officer, Greg Knollman





2016 Spring Webinar Series

Webinars are fun and easy to attend right from the comfort of your own home. All you need is a computer with speakers and an internet connection. All of our presentations are interactive and provide an opportunity to ask questions with our presenters.

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January 12 10:00 am	Contents of the IEP Gain a practical working knowledge of the contents of an IEP as defined by IDEA. We will learn to set reasonable and measurable learning goals for a child with a disability, and to state the individualized services that the school will provide for the child.
February 9 10:00 am	Assertiveness This webinar will teach participants to communicate opinions, thoughts, needs and feelings in a direct, honest, and appropriate manner, in order to secure a free appropriate public education for their child.
March 8 10:00 am	ABC's of IFSP's Early Childhood Intervention Services are based on an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). Participants will gain an understanding of what an IFSP is and the purpose it serves for infants, toddlers, families and Part C providers. Learn what necessary information should be included in an IFSP.
April 12 10:00 am	Realities of Autism This webinar will explore the signs and symptoms of autism spectrum disorders, who is affected, what to do when you are concerned, diagnosis, risk factors and causes, treatment categories, behavior and communication approaches, dietary approaches, medication, complementary and alternative treatments, research, facts and statistics.
January 19 February 16 March 22 April 26 10:00 am	Ask the Special Ed Director... Honest Answers to your Burning Questions Parents frequently ask for various supports and services during their child's ARD meeting only to be given a firm and resounding "No", with rarely a satisfactory explanation. We are left wondering "What's up with that? Don't they care about my child's needs?" Here is your chance to ask your burning questions and get real, honest answers from a former Special Education Director. Note: The purpose of this webinar is to get a "behind the scenes" look into the administrative side of special education and the motivations behind the answers parents may hear. When parents have knowledge of the school's position, they can improve their advocacy strategy. This is not a session for personal problem solving issues. Please contact your local Project Office or Regional Coordinator for one-on-one technical assistance. Visit our website at partnerstx.org. <i>About the Presenter: Chuck Noe has been the Education Specialist for PRN for the past 8 years providing expertise and information to staff and parents. Serving as a Special Education Director for 24 years, along with his prior work in the Special Education Division at the Texas Education Agency, has given Chuck extensive, "real world" knowledge and experience in IDEA and state regulations.</i>
For more information about this webinar series, contact Brenda Nelson, bnelsonprnteam@sbcglobal.net , 979.616.0393 Can't attend a live webinar? Check out our webinar recording archive. Click "View Event Recordings" on the upper right side of the webinar registration page.	

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