



**WESTERLY
LOCAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**





WESTERLY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTACT FORM

NAME(S): _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

MY/OUR CHILD(REN) ATTEND:

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| - STATE STREET | - SPRINGBROOK | - DUNNS CORNERS |
| - PRESCHOOL | - WMS | - _____ |

DO YOU HAVE A CHILD ON AN IEP IN WESTERLY? - YES - NO

I WOULD LIKE TO:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| -- BE A LEADER | -- BE A MEMBER | -- ATTEND AS I CAN |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|

I WOULD PREFER TO MEET:

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| -- MONDAY | -- TUESDAY | -- WEDNESDAY | -- THURSDAY |
|-----------|------------|--------------|-------------|

START TIME:

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| -- 5:30PM | -- 6:00PM | -- 6:30PM | -- 7:00PM |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|

RHODE ISLAND SPECIFIC REGULATION

300.900

**LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
SPECIAL EDUCATION (LAC)**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

- + THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF EACH LOCAL EDUCATIONAL OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL APPOINT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION. THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE SHALL APPROVE THE BYLAWS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

MEMBERSHIP

- + COMPOSED OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN OR CONCERNED WITH THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.
- + PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHALL COMPOSE A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP,
- + AT LEAST FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THIS MAJORITY SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- + THE COMMITTEE SHALL ADVISE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR REGIONAL PROGRAM ON MATTERS CONCERNING:
 - + THE UNMET NEEDS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES,
 - + COMMENT ON IMPROVEMENT PLANS INCLUDING SCHOOL SUPPORT PLANS RESULTING FROM PART B COMPLIANCE REPORTS,



FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- + THE COMMITTEE SHALL ADVISE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR REGIONAL PROGRAM ON MATTERS CONCERNING:
 - + LOCAL COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS PERTAINING TO THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES,
 - + COMMENT ON APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDS



FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- + THE COMMITTEE SHALL ADVISE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR REGIONAL PROGRAM ON MATTERS CONCERNING:
 - + SERVE AS ADVOCATES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENSURE THAT THEY RECEIVE THE ENTITLEMENTS PROVIDED TO THEM UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS



FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEA

- + PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE BY CONTRACTING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES WITH THE RHODE ISLAND DESIGNATED PARENT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY OR OTHER COMMUNITY BASED NON-PROFIT PARENT ORGANIZATION. SUCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SHALL INCLUDE THE ROLE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES IN ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN, STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS, COMMUNITY RESOURCES, STRATEGIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANNUAL

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF LEA

- + REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
- + PROVIDE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLANS TO THE COMMITTEE FOR COMMENT AND MAKE AVAILABLE APPROPRIATE RECORDS AND DATA AS PERMITTED BY LAW.
- + SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE IN DISSEMINATING INFORMATION TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS REGARDING THE ROLE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SPECIAL EDUCATION
- + INFORM THE COMMITTEE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE LEA.

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- + THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS BUT AT LEAST FOUR TIMES ANNUALLY.
- + OFFICIAL MINUTES SHALL BE KEPT OF ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW.
- + ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND AGENDAS SHALL BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO ANY MEETING,
- + MEETINGS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- + MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR REASONABLE AND NECESSARY EXPENSES FOR ATTENDING MEETINGS AND PERFORMING DUTIES



PARENT NOTIFICATION

- + WHEN A CHILD IS REFERRED TO SPECIAL EDUCATION, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT OR REGIONAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE THE PARENTS WITH NOTIFICATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE LOCAL OR REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION ESTABLISHED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THESE REGULATIONS.



PARENT NOTIFICATION

- + THE NOTIFICATION SHALL SPECIFY THAT:
 - + A MAJORITY OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC) ON SPECIAL EDUCATION IS PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES,
 - + INFORM THE PARENTS HOW THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LAC) FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION MAY BE CONTACTED.



Past LAC mission statement



“We strive to encourage respect for and to work towards the understanding and appropriate education for all children with special needs in the Westerly community.”



Past LAC description of roles

What We Do



- Work cooperatively with the Westerly School Committee in an advisory capacity to address the unmet needs of special needs students.
- Present workshops for parents, community members and educators on issues for children with special needs in Westerly.
- Promote communication and programs to support inclusion of children with special needs.

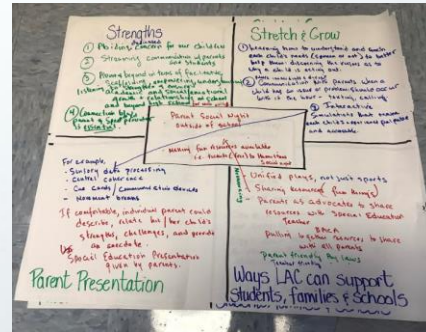
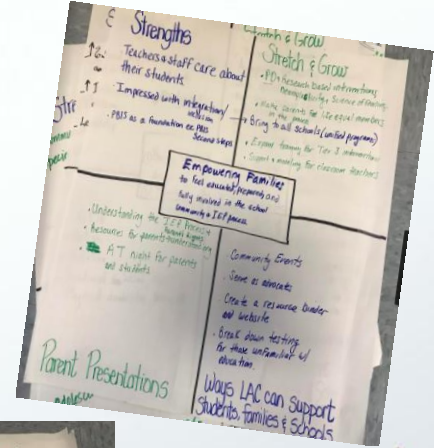


YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED:

- **WESTERLY'S STRENGTHS IN SPECIAL ED**
- **AREAS TO STRETCH AND GROW**
- **PRESENTATIONS FOR PARENTS**
- **WAYS A LAC COULD SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS**



THE FOLLOWING SLIDES SUMMARIZE THE FEEDBACK PROVIDED BY THE GROUP.



STRENGTHS OF WESTERLY'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:

- **TEACHERS AND STAFF CARE ABOUT THEIR STUDENTS**
- **IMPRESSED WITH INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION**
- **PBIS IS A FOUNDATION (PBIS, SECOND STEP)**
- **ABIDING AND DEDICATED CONCERN FOR OUR CHILDREN**
- **STREAMING COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS AND STUDENTS**
- **ABOVE AND BEYOND IN TERMS OF FACILITATING, SCAFFOLDING, EMPOWERING, UNDERSTANDING, LISTENING TO STRENGTHEN AND ENSURE ACADEMIC AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL GROWTH AND RELATIONSHIPS IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL FOR EACH CHILD**
- **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENT AND SPECIAL ED PROVIDER IS ESSENTIAL**
- **INTUNED AND SENSITIVE TO FAMILIES AND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
- **INCLUSION WITH TYPICAL CHILDREN**
- **LEADERSHIP**

STRENGTHS OF WESTERLY'S SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES:

- **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND STAFF**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEAM STRUCTURE (LEAS)**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS ARE WILLING AND READY TO SUPPORT PARENTS**



AREAS FOR WESTERLY TO STRETCH AND GROW IN SPECIAL ED:

- PROVIDE PD ON RESEARCH BASED INTERVENTIONS, NEUROPLASTICITY, SCIENCE OF READING
- MAKE PARENTS FEEL LIKE EQUAL MEMBERS IN THE PROCESS
- BRING IN ALL SCHOOLS ON UNIFIED PROGRAMS
- EXPAND TRAINING FOR TIER 3 INTERVENTIONS
- SUPPORT AND MODEL FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS
- LEARNING HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND REACH EACH CHILD'S NEEDS (SPOKEN OR NOT) TO BETTER HELP THEM BY DISCERNING THE REASONS AS TO WHY A CHILD IS ACTING OUT
- MORE IMMEDIATE COMMUNICATION WITH A PARENT WHEN A CHILD HAS AN ISSUE OR PROBLEM- WITHIN THE HOUR- CALL OR TEXT
- INTERACTIVE SIMULATIONS THAT MAKE EACH CHILD'S EXPERIENCE ACCESSIBLE
- BE CREATIVE AND PIONEER APPROPRIATE AND INVITING ENVIRONMENTS- NATURAL LIGHT, SPACIOUS, COMFORTABLE CLIMATE, ACCESS TO BATHROOMS TO MEET THEIR NEEDS



AREAS FOR WESTERLY TO STRETCH AND GROW IN SPECIAL ED:

- **BUY MORE MINI BUSES TO DECREASE THE LENGTH OF TIME TO OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS**
- **GROW ACCORDINGLY WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
- **MAKE IEP MEETINGS MORE PARENT CENTERED, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS OF STUDENT'S NEEDS/ STRENGTHS**
- **MORE INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES- UNIFIED SPORTS, CREATIVE OUTLETS, SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES**
- **BETTER JOB BREAKING DOWN TERMS/ SPECIAL EDUCATION LANGUAGE**



POSSIBLE PARENT PD PRESENTATION TOPICS:

- **UNDERSTANDING THE IEP PROCESS AND PARENTS' RIGHTS**
- **RESOURCES FOR PARENTS- UNDERSTOOD.ORG**
- **AT NIGHT FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**
- **IF COMFORTABLE, INDIVIDUAL PARENTS DESCRIBE, RELATE HIS/HER CHILD'S STRENGTHS, CHALLENGES AND PROVIDE AN ANECDOTE**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESENTATION GIVEN BY PARENTS**
- **RIPIN**
- **AUTISM**
- **NUTRITION**
- **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT**
- **PHYSICAL DISABILITIES/ THERAPISTS**
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION 101**
- **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL**
- **ADOLESCENCE AND TEENAGE YEARS (PUBERTY, SEXUALITY, ETC.)**

WAYS THE WSE LAC COULD SUPPORT STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS:

- **COMMUNITY EVENTS**
- **SERVE AS ADVOCATES**
- **CREATE A RESOURCE BINDER/ WEBSITE**
- **BREAK DOWN TESTING FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH EDUCATION**
- **UNIFIED PLAYS- NOT JUST SPORTS**
- **SHARING RESOURCES- FUN ACTIVITIES**
- **PARENTS AS ADVOCATES TO SHARE RESOURCES WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**
- **PULLING TOGETHER BACA RESOURCES TO SHARE WITH PARENTS**
- **PARENT FRIENDLY/ TEACHER FRIENDLY BY LAWS**
- **HAVE A LIST OF PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**
- **CREATE A SURVEY FOR PARENTS TO GIVE FEEDBACK**
- **SOCIAL EVENTS TO BRING AWARENESS, TO NETWORK, TO SHARE AND HAVE FUN ALSO**
- **DEVELOP IDEAS TO ADDRESS WAYS WE ARE EDUCATING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

WAYS THE WSE LAC COULD SUPPORT STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS:

- **RECRUITING PARENTS TO DO PRESENTATIONS ON IEPs**
- **ASSIST NEW PARENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS**
- **PARENT MENTORS LIAISON/ BUDDIES**
- **ADVOCATES/ SUPPORT AT MEETINGS**
- **LANGUAGE**
- **EXAMPLES**
- **TERMS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION GIVEN PRIOR TO MEETING**



ONE GOAL FROM EACH GROUP FOR THE WSE LAC TO FOCUS ON THIS YEAR:

- **EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO FEEL EDUCATED, PREPARED AND FULLY INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND IEP PROCESS.**
- **PARENT SOCIAL NIGHT OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**
- **MAKE FUN RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO PARENTS (FREE THEATRE TICKETS)**
- **BEING INVOLVED IN THE NEW SCHOOL DESIGN**
- **TRY TO GET A MEMBERSHIP OF 20-30 FOR AN ACTIVE LAC**
- **PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE GROUP**
- **BRINGING SPECIAL EDUCATION TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE EDUCATION CONVERSATION**
- **COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY**



**INVITE RIPIN
SOUTHERN RI CONTACT
TO MEET WITH US TO
GET STARTED ON
LEADERSHIP & BY LAWS**

**PLAN NEXT MEETING
DATE IN JANUARY**



MELISSA DENTON

315-1533

MDENTON@WESTERLY.K12.RI.US