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For Special Ed Staff/Administrators

BUILDING POSITIVE AND EFFECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG IEP TEAM

MEMBERS (Presenter: Douglas Little, Key2Ed)

Date: September 15, 2020

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Date: October 19, 2020 (repeat session)

Time: 1:00-4:00pm

What tools and techniques can IEP teams use to create a collaborative, effective, and efficient process that leads to positive outcomes for students, and promotes positive relationships with families? This presentation will offer information on how to use negotiations techniques to promote consensus in a win-win atmosphere. Presenters will provide information on how to prepare for an IEP meeting, and how to assist families to also come prepared to participate positively and effectively. Quality communication and listening skills will be emphasized.

ELIMINATING CONFLICT THROUGH EXEMPLARY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(Presenter: Joyce H. Little, Ed.D; Key2Ed)

Date: September 16, 2020

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Date: October 20, 2020 (repeat session)

Time: 1:00-4:00pm

How do we put “noise in the system” that creates an atmosphere of antipathy and distrust, results in conflict? What steps can we take to create a culture that promotes cooperation and collaboration? How do we return to our roots of quality education for students and service to families to avoid disputes and conflict?

This presentation will offer ideas on special education's customers, our students and their families, and how we can provide exemplary service to them. We will explore best practices in customer service and discuss how we can utilize and adapt these practices to special education, to serve our diverse customer population. Communication tools and ideas will be presented to assist special educators in developing last positive relationships, and a welcoming school culture.

LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ESSENTIALS OF DUE PROCESS AND MEDIATION

(Presenter: Jan E. Tomsy, JD, Fagen Friedman Fulfrost)

Date: October 26, 2020

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

IDEA due process hearings are the primary vehicle for resolving disputes between parents and districts concerning the identification, evaluation, placement or the provision of FAPE to students with disabilities. Jan Tomsy will look in-depth at “process of due process” from the filing of the complaint to the actual hearing, with stops along the way to discuss pre-hearing settlement options—specifically mediation, resolution meetings and alternative dispute resolution.

OFFERING FREE & APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE), NOT FAVORS

(Presenter: Tracy Petznick Johnson, JD; Harbottle Law Group)

Date: November 9, 2020

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

No one enjoys being in a contentious IEP meeting, and saying, “Yes” to parent requests often seems like the easiest way to resolve conflicts and move forward. Unfortunately, there are many situations in which a parent’s requests are not supported by our team’s professional recommendations, and may even run contrary to what the school team believes is required for FAPE. This presentation will offer concrete strategies to address requests during IEP meetings, including model language for different scenarios, and help administrators evaluate when to compromise, when to gather more information, and when to refuse parent requests in the IEP meetings. For requests that cannot be resolved in the IEP meeting, we will review the legal requirements of prior written notice letters, and discuss when districts should consider using alternative dispute resolutions. Finally, we will give case examples where districts’ decisions to go along with parents’ requests ultimately resulted in findings that the district denied FAPE, and how to avoid similar outcomes pro-actively.

For Special Ed Staff/Administrators *(continued)*

SERIES: MAKING MEETINGS WORK - FOR DISTRICT STAFF THAT FACILITATE IEP TEAMS AND OTHER STUDENT-CENTERED MEETINGS

(Presenter: Marc Purchin, Purchin Consulting)

Dates: Jan. 12, 2021; Feb. 9, 2021; Mar. 9, 2021; Mar. 30, 2021

Time: 2:00-3:00pm

This four-hour training series (one hour each) is geared towards case carriers and site administrators who run meetings.

Topics of the training will include:

- Best practices for running meetings
- Positive communication skills
- Looking at problems from different perspectives
- Being able to clearly articulate concerns from staff and parent perspective - especially when it is perceived that the request may be viewed as unreasonable and/or unfair
- Dealing with anger
- Tips on working with “difficult” people or situations

For District General Ed and Special Ed Staff

(Presenter: Marc Purchin, Purchin Consulting)

CONFLICT RESOLUTION - TIPS AND TOOLS FOR CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS WITH COLLEAGUES AND PARENTS

Date: Sept. 22, 2020

Time: 1:00-3:00pm

California Department of Education has documented that the number one reason why parents make a state compliance complaint or file for due process against the school district (i.e., sue) is that they did not feel heard at the site level. Therefore, site administrators are encouraged to attend.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE COMMUNICATION

Date: Oct. 9, 2020

Time: 9:30-11:30 am

Using special education as the umbrella, and through case study and interaction, this training will provide tips and tools for educators and administrators to be able to facilitate discussions across cultures. This workshop will explore differences between unconscious (implicit) bias, racism and the stereotypes we bring to every conversation. Participants will also leave with a “tool kit” they can use in future cross-cultural dialogues.

For registration questions, contact:

MPaeste@sccoe.org

