



Family Resource Network

Helping Families Meet the Challenge

Volume 13, Issue 2, Spring 2005

President Bush Signs IDEA Reauthorization

In December of 2004 President George W. Bush signed the bill that reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which is the legislation that covers special education services, including the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The legislation is called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004). Most of the changes to the bill go into effect on July 1, 2005.

As of this writing it is unknown when the Federal Regulations will be published. These regulations give directions to schools on how to follow the law. Additionally, it is unknown at this time how California will interpret the changes to IDEA. FRN staff will be attending workshops on the new legislation and all FRN's special education workshops will include up-to-the -minute information on IDEA 2004.

Some changes that were passed by Congress as part of IDEA 2004:

Short term objectives for meeting each child's measurable annual IEP goals will cease for most children. Only those children "who take alternative assessments aligned with alternate achievement standards" will still be obligated to have short term goals.

Transition to Adult Services. IDEA 2004 states that the IEP that is in effect on the child's 16th birthday must include appropriate measurable post-secondary goals for education, training, employment and independent living skills. This is a change from the current law in California that starts the transition process by the child's 14th birthday.

IEP team attendance and participation. A new section of IDEA 2004 authorizes IEP team members to be excused from attending the IEP meeting if their area is not being discussed. Written parental consent is required before members of the IEP team can be absent from the meeting. New provisions allow other ways to participate in meetings such as conference calls. Other provisions authorize combining reevaluation meetings and other IEP meetings and, in certain instances, changing the IEP without meeting.

Transfer between school districts. When a child with disabilities moves between school districts during the school year, the new district must provide services comparable to those in the IEP and be in effect before the transfer. In a transfer *within the state*, the services must continue until the new district adopts the previous IEP or develops, adopts and implements a new one. If the transfer is to another state, the new school district must also continue to provide services comparable to those on the incoming student's IEP until the new district conducts an evaluation of the child (if necessary) and "develops a new IEP."

Learning Disability eligibility changes. IDEA 2004 defines "specific learning disability" as a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, in which a disorder may manifest itself in the imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations.

Statute of limitations. For the first time the federal statute states that parents have a 2 year limit, from the time they knew of or should have known, that an IDEA 2004 violation occurred, in which to file an administrative due process complaint about any matter concerning the identification, evaluation, placement or provision of a free appropriate public education. The statute states that the two-year limitation will apply unless it is inconsistent with state law. We are waiting to see California's position on this.

There are changes to the Stay-put and Manifestation Determination Review provisions of IDEA 2004. The Dispute Resolution process has also been modified. As stated previously, the federal and state regulations will give us a clearer picture on how these changes will be implemented in California. Future FRN newsletters will address these issues.

As FRN receives emailed info re IDEA 2004 it will be emailed to those on FRN's email list. To be added to the list, email your contact information to frnfamilies@aol.com.

Information for this article comes from multiple sources including Protection and Advocacy, Incorporated and the PACER Center in Minnesota.

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Stockton, CA 95207
Email: FRNfamilies@aol.com website: www.frcn.org

Congratulations to the winners of FRN's recent drawing:

Julie McCollum
Silvia Torres
Jing Zhu



PLAY BALL!

There are numerous recreational opportunities for Special Needs children in the Stockton area. For more information call the Stockton's Special Children Sports Program at 957-1613.

Modesto Epilepsy Support Group
meets from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the 2nd
Tuesday of the month at the West Side
Community Building on Paradise Road.
Call Mary for details at 521-9737.

Autism Support Groups Lodi

The Lodi Autism Group meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Nichols School. There will be a family social in June. No meetings in July and August. For more information call Sylvia at 334-3025.

Modesto

The **Modesto** FEAT subgroup meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. at the Borders Book Store on Sisk Road. For more info contact Suzanne at 545-2644.

Tracy

The **Tracy** FEAT subgroup meets every Thursday at 9 a.m. at JavaMakers Café, 2179 W. Grantline Road, in the back conference room. Additionally there is a meeting the 3rd Thursday evening of each month at the conference room at Sutter Tracy Community Hospital at 7 p.m. The evening meeting will feature speakers and specific topics of interest. For more information contact Heidi at 209-832-3878 or email her at HeidiKaufmann908@msn.com.

The **Tracy** Autism Parent Group meets every Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the Community Room at the Safeway at Corral Hollow and 11th Street. For information contact Heidi at 832-3878.

Central Valley Down Syndrome Association News

The Spanish-language group meets the 2nd Friday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. at M.L. Annear School in Modesto. Call Maria at 845-8028 for information.

Call Angie Purewal at 499-2420 for information on the English-language group.

Plans are underway for another fun Buddy Walk in the Fall. Call Maria or Angie for details.

Special Parents

is a discussion group for parents of children with special needs. The group meets the third Tuesday evening, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., of every month during the traditional school year at Quail Lakes Baptist Church, 1904 Quail Lakes Drive, Room W-410, in Stockton.

All Special Parent meetings are FREE and open to all interested parties, including professionals. Refreshments are provided. We even offer a doorprize! We regret that we are unable to provide childcare.

April 19 – Writing Effective IEP Goals and Objectives

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, FRN

Back by popular demand, this workshop will assist parents in becoming more active participants in the goal writing process. There will also be discussion on how the reauthorization of IDEA affects IEP goals and objectives.

May 17 – Fathers Panel

A Panel of local dads will discuss the issues and emotions they face by being the dad of a child with special needs

June 21 – Family Social

Fun, food, crafts and games for the whole family. We'll also have a book exchange. Bring any books that you no longer want at home – children's books, cook books, mysteries, etc. Any books not claimed at the end of the event will be donated to Stockton Library's Friend of the Library program..

There is no cost, but reservations are required. Call FRN at 800-847-3030 or email us at FRNfamilies@aol.com.



California Telephone Access Program

Offers specialized telephone equipment and network services as well as telecommunications relay services at no charge to qualified California consumers who have functional limitation to using the telephone. This includes hearing loss or deafness, low vision or blindness, speech disabilities, mobility impairments and cognitive impairments. For more information contact the California Relay Service toll free by dialing 711 or TTY at 800-735-2929, non TTY users can call 800-735-2922, and Speech to Speech users can call 800-854-7784.

Local Training Opportunities

April 7 - Special Education Rights Workshop

• Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Sonora Regional Medical Center., 1000 Greeley Road - **Sonora**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 16– Autism Forum • SJCOE Education

Service Center, **Stockton** • partial scholarships for parents, fee for professionals, for scholarship information contact FRN at 472-3674.

April 19– Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., scholarships for parents, \$10 fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

April 22– CHOICES Institute – Respect Yourself: Just Say Know! •

Keynote Presenter: Dave Hingsburger • SJCOE Education Service Center, **Stockton**, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., fee, for information call 209-948-8011.

May 3– Parental Rights and Advocacy in Special Education •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., scholarships for parents, fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

May 5 - Special Education Rights Workshop •

Presenters: Area VI Board and Family Resource Network • Sam Andreas/Calaveras Library, 891 Mtn. Ranch Road – **San Andreas**, 6 p.m., FREE, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

June 8– Building Bridges – Transitioning Your Child from the Early Start Program •

Presenter: Ann Cirimele, Family Resource Network • FRN Office in **Stockton**, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., scholarships for parents, \$10 fee for professionals, for reservations call 800-847-3030.

Check FRN's website, www.frcn.org for updated information on trainings and events.

New in FRN's Lending Library

Books

Phrases – The Art of Sign Language

Pocketbook of Special Education Statistics 2002-2003

Special Need Trust Administrative Manual

FRN thanks Sue Robertson who donated the following book to the library:

The Early Years

FRN thanks Emily Bauch-Donnan who donated the following books to the library:

** Let Me Hear Your Voice*

** The Natural Medicine Guide to Autism*

** Raising a Child with Autism*

Videos

FRN thanks Jennie Stormes who donated the following videos to the library:

An Introduction to the Ketogenic Diet

En Espanol

Manual de Los Padre Encargados del Enlaces de Salud de Voces de la Familia

To borrow resources from the library or to receive an updated library list, call FRN at 800-847-3030 or log onto our website at www.fren.org



**A fun event for siblings ages 7 to 14
Saturday, May 14, 2005**

1 to 4 p.m. at Valley Community Baptist Church in Tracy

Registration is required. Call 472-3674 or 800-847-3030 to get registration form.



Early Start Transition

California's Early Start Program serves children ages birth to 36 months with developmental disabilities or who are at risk for developmental disabilities.

The laws that cover these Early Start services are Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Lanterman Act. As a child approaches his/her 3rd birthday, there is a process for transitioning the child from the Early Start Program. The law states that the Regional Center and the school districts must have a transition process in place that provides for a "smooth transition with no gaps in service." Here is the timeline for the transition process:

At 2 years, 6 months the child's Service Coordinator must:

- Notify the parent that transition will occur in the next 3 to 6 months.
- Notify the local education agency (school district) that there will be an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meeting to address transition steps before the child turns 2 yrs, 9 months.
- Within 30 days of notification of meeting, coordinate meeting date with parents and school district.

At 2 years, 9 months IFSP transition steps must include:

- Information to the parent about special education eligibility at age 3.
- Steps to prepare the toddler for changes in service delivery.
- Information about community resources.
- Projected date for the final review of the IFSP to review transition outcomes by age 3.

For a child whose first IFSP is held after age 2 years, 6 months, that IFSP must include transition information.

If there is any possibility that the child will qualify for special education services at age 3, a representative from the school district where the family resides should be participating in the transition process in order to ensure a smooth transition. If you have questions about your child's transition from the Early Start Program you should contact your service coordinator immediately.



FRN extends its thanks to the following
for their generous donations:

Sue and Tom Chinchiolo
in memory of Richard Bond
Carrie Findley
TiffanyFuhrmeister
Heather Gilchrist
Tammy Kranich
Sanjenne McGechie
Andrea Moreno
Kathy & Drake Nakaishi
Rita Neudeck
Patrick O'Connor
Dan & Marilyn Platt
Marlene Yu-Li

Many thanks to FRN's
Fabulous Volunteers:
Kathy Nakaishi
Don Okura



Operation: Birthday Wishes Donors:

Molli Cantrall
Mary Carter
Michelle Dillon
Carrie Findley
Edward & Kathleen O'Connor
Joan O'Connor
Gwenda Simms
Peggy Traverso
Traci Trujillo
Adrienne Webster

*100% of these donors generous donations will be
used to send birthday cards to people with
developmental disabilities in group homes.*



Project Rudolph Donor:

Michelle Dillon



FRN gives a big "tip of the hat" to the
following sponsors of the 7th Annual
Mothers Retreat:

Emily Bauch – Discovery Toys
Beardsley Bible – Modesto
Department of Developmental Services
Escalon Floral
Great Clips For Hair, Modesto
Hal's Hallmark, Escalon
Krispy Kremes , March Lane, Stockton
Larsen's Hallmark, Stockton
Noah's Bagels, Lincoln Center, Stockton
Parents Helping Parents
Ripon Manufacturing Company
Rosemart Floral, Stockton
San Joaquin County Office of Education
S-Mart Foods, Hammer Ranch, Stockton
T&T Trucking
Tres Joli Salon, Escalon
Valley Mountain Regional Center

FRN extends its thanks to Kathleen
DeBose for donating her services as a
massage therapist. The participants
really enjoyed the shoulder and neck
massages!

Thank You United Way Donors

Paul Antigua
Ward Downs
Thea Etheridge
Danielle Pierce
Blanca Sanchez
Norert Schuchbauer
Manuel Torrecampo
And
Anonymous Donors

FRN thanks ALL of you for your support!!!

You Can Make a Difference in Our Lives *Thoughts to a Professional from a Parent*

Reprinted with permission from *It Matters: Lessons from My Son*
by Janice Fialka, MSW, ACSW

I believe that as professionals who work with children with disabilities you can make a difference in our lives as parents of children with special needs. You cannot however, make THE difference. Therein lies the challenge of our partnership. Highlighted here are ten ways in which you can make an important difference.

One: You have the opportunity not to be frightened by our anger...to embrace it, to welcome it, and even to invite it on a good day. You have the opportunity not to be intimidated when we blow off steam. You have the opportunity not to personalize these angry, negative feelings. The great challenge for you is to give us the opportunity to fall apart once in awhile. You may be surprised by how quickly we recover when we are given the opportunity to feel our feelings in the community of experienced and caring professionals.

Two: You have the opportunity to decrease our profound sense of loneliness. You have the opportunity to break that silence and gently lead us into the sounds of compassion and respectful curiosity. So often we want to talk about "it", but few people appear to want us to talk. You often will be the ONE person who will say, "Tell me more... and then what happened...and how did that feel?"

Three: You have the opportunity to anticipate and normalize our feelings. You can prepare us for the challenges of birthdays and holidays. You can let us know that we will have wild mood swings and uncomfortable thoughts about "those parents" with normal children. Never underestimate the significance of your anticipation and acceptance of your feelings. It will comfort us during those long sleepless nights.

Four: You have the opportunity to help us re-enter the "world of normal families." Parents with special needs children never feel the same once they learn about their children's differences, especially when those differences are cognitive. We don't know how to squeeze back into the world despite the fact that we are in it. Going to a birthday party can be a major mountain to climb. You, as the professional, can create bridges back to that world.

Five: You have the opportunity to help us know our child. In the beginning, most of us know very little about the disability or special needs. We often can't even spell this new reality in our lives. You can model

for us how to say the words, how to tell others. You can take us into our children's lives.

Six: You have the opportunity to share books, pamphlets, and other resources. Take those books and articles out of your file cabinets and off the shelves and share them with parents who have no idea where to find the stories and facts about their children. It is very challenging to walk to the "disability" section of the bookstore or library. You can tentatively open those pages.

Seven: You have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate our victories. They are often too small for the "normal" population to appreciate. You know that strange sound "grunt" made by our child is truly a miracle. Only you know that a new movement is significant and indicates a renewed sense of hope. You can point out these grand milestones to us.

Eight: You have the opportunity to remind us how far we have come and how much we have accomplished. You, often more than our closest friends, know the details of our successes. Over and over you can highlight those changes and celebrate the growth.

Nine: You have the opportunity to allow us those moments when our souls fall into deep despair. We will at times feel that we cannot continue for another moment. We will at times feel that we don't want to continue for another moment. You can give us space to be in that dark place. It is one of the greatest "interventions" that you can provide.

Ten: If at times you can do some of these nine suggested activities, you will then have the opportunity to help us feel hope. We must feel hope if we are going to get to our next appointment, or to face the next birthday party, or to use the words "special needs".

Effective partnerships between parents and professionals require collaboration. Plopped right in the middle of that word you find the word "labor". Partnership is labor. It is hard work. You are the midwives helping us give birth to a new relationship. Let us begin!

FRN's Friend in Deed Certificate

**A Perfect Gift for ...
Teachers,
Instructional Aides,
Doctors,
Service Coordinators,
Grandparents,
Babysitters, or
Other special people in your child's life.**



“Please send a Friend in Deed Certificate to my sister. The love she has provided to me and my son cannot be measured...”

Do you know someone who deserves special recognition?

We all know someone who has been the cornerstone of our child's success. Or that special someone we turn to in a crisis who has always been able to guide us. Please consider awarding that special someone whose actions are always beyond the call of duty with a certificate recognizing them as a FRIEND IN DEED. Submit the form below to FRN and we will make sure that those friends whose acts of kindness and compassion have made a difference in the life of a child and their family are formally recognized. Their names will be printed in FRN's next newsletter.

Please send a certificate to the person listed below.

- Please accept my donation of \$5.00 per certificate to cover the cost of preparing and mailing each certificate.
- Additional Award Requests Enclosed. (List other names on another sheet of paper.)

MAKE CERTIFICATE OUT TO: (please print)

First Name

Last Name

Agency/Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

PLEASE MAKE AWARD ON BEHALF OF MYSELF/MY CHILD:

First Name

Last Name

Mailing Address: _____

City,State,Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

QUESTIONS? CALL 209-472-3674 or 800-847-3030.

Mail with payment to: Family Resource Network, 5250 Claremont Ave, Suite 239, Stockton, CA 95207