

winter 2019

SSD parent CONNECTION

A publication of SSD's Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program

SSD Parent Leadership Institute Fall 2019

Saturday Sessions Scheduled for Sept. 7, Oct. 5 and Nov. 2

Since 2007, SSD has been committed to promoting parent education and leadership through the Parent Leadership Institute (PLI). "Life-changing" is how parents describe the experience of the three Saturdays in the fall.

Parents hear from national speakers who help them develop a vision for their children's future and confidence to make it happen. They gain tools to make a positive change not only in their child's life but the climate of their child's school.

The institute is presented by the SSD Parent Education & Diversity Awareness Program.

Join us for an informational session from 6-7 p.m. on April 10 at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town & Country, to find out more about this program.

Download the application at <http://bit.ly/pliapplication> or call 314.989.8108.

SSD Family & Community Resource Center

The Family & Community Resource Center – or FCRC as it's better known – provides just what its name promises: A vast array of special education and disability-related tools and resources for SSD families and the community at large. The FCRC's collection includes thousands of books, DVDs, resource packets and more.

 View the online library of materials at <http://www.ssdmo.org/cooltools/fcrcbooks.html>

Call 314.989.8460 or email rdmyers@ssdmo.org to have books and DVDs sent home through school mail (via your child's backpack). We need your name, address, phone number, email address, child's name, teacher and school.

Parent Connection is a publication of the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program of Special School District of St. Louis County.

WE PROVIDE:

- Advice and consultation about your child's IEP
- Free parent workshops
- Free lending library
- Help in finding community resources and supports
- Ability awareness resources



MICHELLE LEVI PEREZ

314.989.8438 | mleviperez@ssdmo.org

West Region: Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Litzsinger and Neuwoehner schools, JDC, Lakeside

DEBRA FIASCO

314.989.8108 | dmfiasco@ssdmo.org

South and Central Regions: Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Mehlville, Valley Park, Webster Groves, Southview School, South Technical High School, Vocational Skills Program

PAM RUSSELL

314.989.8194 | pjrussell@ssdmo.org

North and Central Regions: Clayton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, University City, Northview and Ackerman schools, North Technical High School

RACHEL MYERS – 314.989.8431 | rdmyers@ssdmo.org Family & Community Resource Center

SARAH GEER – Program Assistant

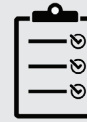


Back row (left to right): Debra Fiasco, Michelle Levi Perez, Pam Russell. Front row (left to right): Sarah Geer, Rachel Myers

Transition Workshop Series

Transition is the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another. Students are continually transitioning in the education process and families need to plan for these transitions.

The SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program, along with the SSD Transition Department, is focusing on this topic with a series of workshops that will address transition.



Look for this symbol throughout the newsletter for workshops about transition-related topics.

2017-2018 IEP Survey Results Are In!

Families who receive services from SSD and have provided SSD with their email address have been receiving an electronic request to complete an Individualized Education Program (IEP) survey. The surveys are sent out after a student's annual or initial IEP. SSD received **2,576** completed surveys during the 2017-2018 school year, a **16.16%** return rate.

Responses have been providing SSD with valuable feedback. While the overwhelming majority of the responses have been positive, the area of greatest opportunity based on family feedback has been related to communication, collaboration, data and information sharing prior to an IEP.

Areas noted specifically have been reporting progress and sharing concerns in advance of an IEP. The District continues to work with its professional development department, special education process committee and administrators to support training and information sharing related to communication strategies and expectations as well as collaboration.

Thank you for your feedback and please continue to share your experiences so that we may continuously improve our practices. If you do not wish to share your email address or do not have email, you can access the survey by visiting www.ssdmo.org/YourVoiceCounts.html or requesting a hard copy of the survey.

Workshop Information

All workshops are provided free of charge and open to all parents, families and community members.

Registration Options:

- 1 **Call** 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HOH).
- 2 **Email** registrant's name, workshop name and date, phone number and school district to ssdregistration@ssdmo.org.
- 3 **Register online** at <https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsnn>
(call the registration number for assistance with setting up an account).

Please be sure to register for workshops as they are sometimes canceled due to unexpected circumstances or weather conditions. We need to be able to contact you!

If you need more information, or if you have special needs and require an alternative format as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Debra Fiasco, Administrator, Parent Education, dmfiasco@ssdmo.org 314.989.8108 or 711 (Deaf/HOH).

- Unless otherwise noted with this symbol, all workshops are held on the lower level at SSD's Central Administrative Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country (just east of Ballas Road, next to Neuwoehner High School).
Childcare is not provided.

Note: Workshops presented by MPACT refers to Missouri's statewide Parent Training and Information Center that serves all disabilities and all ages.





What to Do This Summer?

If this is the question that you begin to think about in April or May, don't delay. Many programs fill up quickly.

Plan to attend the "What to Do This Summer" Recreation Fair

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:30-8 p.m., SSD Central Office, Lower Level, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131

The Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis will present information on funding and recreation vouchers from 6:30-6:50 p.m. The fair will begin at 6:50 p.m. and providers of summer camps and programs will be available to discuss their offerings.

➤ **The SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Summer Resource Packet** will be available in February. To request a copy, please call 314.989.8460 or email rdmyers@ssdmo.org.

Extended School Year (ESY) 2019

ESY services are offered during the summer for students receiving special education services who have been found eligible to receive the services by the IEP team. ESY is not the same as summer school, which school districts may or may not offer to all district students.

ESY services generally run from June 4-July 29, either Monday through Thursday or Monday through Friday. Most programs run three to four hours in the morning. SSD attempts to match the timing of special education ESY services to regular summer school/enrichment programming in a student's home district.

Student enrollment forms for ESY will be mailed to qualified families on Feb. 15, 2019. Forms should be signed and returned to the student's case manager by March 1, 2019. Information regarding ESY can be found on the Special Considerations page of the student's IEP, as well as on Form B.

If you have questions about ESY and/or your child's eligibility, contact his or her IEP case manager/chairperson. You may also contact your child's SSD area coordinator or SSD principal with further questions. To learn more about ESY, contact the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program at 314.989.8460.

WINTER 2019 SSD PARENT WORKSHOPS

JANUARY



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.

Orientation for Parents to Special Education and the IEP Process

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 6-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Parent Education and Diversity Awareness

SSD Central Office, Room 61

Is special education sounding like alphabet soup? OTs, PTs, IEPs? This orientation is designed to provide parents with an overview of special

education services and how they are provided through Special School District. Learn more about how to develop an effective individualized education program (IEP) and understand educational rights and community resources.



Planning for the Future: Benefits & Futures Planning

Thursday, Jan. 31, 6.30-8.30 p.m.

Presenter: Bhavik R. Patel, Attorney, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard P.C. SSD Central Office, Room 60

This workshop is designed to provide information to students and their families about the planning process for the future in the areas of special needs planning, SSI, Social Security, Medicaid

and Medicare. Information about the laws pertaining to government benefit eligibility and the use of special needs trusts, guardianships and conservatorships will be covered.

REGISTERING FOR WORKSHOPS



CALL US:

314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HOH)



REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsnn>

Call the registration number for help with setting up an account.

FEBRUARY



College Preparation for Students with Disabilities

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Amy Bird and Mary Wagner, St. Louis Community College Access Office
SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will benefit parents, students, high school counselors and SSD teachers. Workshop addresses college and other post-secondary options for students who are planning on continuing their education. Information will be presented about the planning and research process, services available, ACT/SAT testing accommodations and more.



Signs for Families and Friends Intermediate Class – 4 sessions

Mondays, Feb. 4, 11, 25 and March 4, 6-7:30 p.m.

Presenters: Toni Fuller and Katie Englebrecht
Hazelwood School District Central Office Multipurpose Room, 15955 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63031

This workshop will expand on beginning level sign language skills in the area of sign language vocabulary, sign sentence structure, conceptual accuracy, facial expressions, and body language. Focus is on families. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied/supervised by an adult.

Executive Functioning: Teaching Your Child to Think Differently to Act Differently (For Elementary-Age Students)

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Karen Nahnsen, SSD Facilitator
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Planning, initiating tasks, organizing and managing time are some skills that

many people take for granted. For some students, these skills, which are critical for learning and achieving goals, don't come naturally. Join us for a hands-on working session that will give parents an opportunity to practice strategies, develop an action plan to implement with their child and collaborate with others to share successes and problem solve.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.

Executive Functioning: Teaching Your Child to Think Differently to Act Differently (For Secondary-Age Students)

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Karen Nahnsen, SSD Facilitator
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Planning, initiating tasks, organizing and managing time are some skills that many people take for granted. For some students, these skills, which are critical for learning and achieving goals, don't come naturally. Join us for a hands-on working session that will give parents an opportunity to practice strategies, develop an action plan to implement with their child and collaborate with others to share successes and problem solve.

“What to Do This Summer” Recreation Fair

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 6:30-8 p.m.

Susan Fleming, Executive Director of the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis and recreation providers
SSD Central Office, Room 60-61

During this recreation fair, parents will be able to visit with providers of summer programs and camps that include all children. Recreation voucher and funding information will be presented from **6:30-6:50 p.m.**



Self-Determination – A Key to Student Success

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Jeff Schneider, SSD Transition Effective Practice Specialist
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Self-determination is an important skill for students to have when learning how to make choices and decisions based on their own preferences and interests. The development of self-determination skills is a process that begins in childhood and continues throughout one's life, leading to students' ability to monitor and regulate their own actions and to be goal-oriented and self-directing. This workshop will provide participants with an overview of self-determination and best practice principles that will support students' post-school outcomes.

MARCH

The Art of Effective Advocacy

Wednesday, March 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: MPACT
SSD Central Office, Room 61

If you have or work with a child with a disability, this training is for you. Learn the importance of keeping and organizing your child's records, as well as what information needs to be in your child's file. We will also discuss how to communicate more effectively with your child's school district and the importance of working collaboratively to solve problems.

Making Meaning: Helping Kids Understand What They Read

Thursday, March 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Cheryl Perry, Ed.S., M.Ed., SSD Literacy Coach
SSD Central Office, Room 61

If your child seems to read words well but has difficulty with comprehension, this workshop will provide strategies that help children understand new

vocabulary, connect new learning to prior knowledge, create images, determine main ideas, summarize and more.

Understanding Behavior: How to Support your Child's Positive Behavior

Tuesday, March 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Ryan Guffy, PBIS Facilitator
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Would you like an opportunity to explore what your child is trying to communicate with their behaviors? Would you like to learn strategies and create a plan to support your child's positive behavior? If so, please consider joining us for this session.

Sexuality Education: Talking with Your Child about Body Safety and Boundaries

Thursday, March 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Barbara Gross, M.A., BCBA, LBA
Associate Behavior Analyst
SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will address a variety of topics, including safety, understanding what is public and what is private, puberty and independence.

APRIL

Signs for Families and Friends Intermediate Class – 5 sessions

Tuesdays, April 9, 16, 23, 30 and May 7
6-7:30 p.m.
Presenters: Greg Petersen, Mickey
Schuchardt
SSD Central Office, Room 61

This workshop will expand on beginning-level sign language skills in the area of sign language vocabulary, sign sentence structure, conceptual accuracy, facial expressions, and body language. Focus is on families. Children 10 years and older are welcome if accompanied/supervised by an adult.

Early Childhood Parent Training: Basic Behavior Management

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Early Childhood Special
Education Student Support Facilitators
SSD Central Office, Room 60

This workshop will provide parents of young children with basic understanding of how language, developmental delays and temperament impact behaviors. Strategies to develop helpful rules, routines and clear expectations will be covered. Parents will learn how to develop visual supports that can improve communication in the home.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.

Parent Leadership Institute and Outreach Ambassador Information Night

Wednesday, April 10, 6-7 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Come and learn more about two SSD family opportunities available through the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness (PEDA) Program. We will be discussing the Parent Leadership Institute and the newly revised Parent Outreach Ambassadors program. There will be a short presentation about both programs with an opportunity to ask questions afterwards. Following this informational session, participants are invited to attend the SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders – Two-Part Class

Tuesdays, April 16 & 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenters: Autism Effective Practice
Specialists
SSD Central Office, Room 60

Identify and understand the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and learn effective, practical strategies that will support your child in being more successful at home and school. The second session will focus more on strategies, with time for discussion and questions.

Supporting your Child with Emotional Disabilities in Home and at School

Wednesday, April 17, 6-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Ann Stackle, NAMI St. Louis
SSD Central Office, Room 61

Learn how to communicate more effectively with your child's therapist or psychiatrist and work with school when negative behaviors, withdrawal or anxiety are escalating. Learn about how to plan supports, as well as strategies that decrease anxiety at home and school (what to do when you can't get your child to go to school, etc.). Participants will gain a greater understanding of community supports for children with emotional disabilities and mental illness.

Summertime Math Strategies

Thursday, April 18, 6:30-8 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Room 61
Presenter: Dr. Jessica Spencer, SSD
Facilitator

Do you want to learn some strategies to keep your child's math skills up over the summer? Come learn a few ways to reinforce skills they already have, while learning a few new ones! Most of the instructional level will be centered on elementary math, but parents/guardians of middle and high school students are also welcome.



Turning 18: How to Prepare for Adulthood

Thursday, April 25, 6:30-8 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Room 61

Presenter: SSD Staff

Planning for adulthood can be daunting for students and their families. Utilizing materials from the Missouri Bar Association and LifeCourse tools, we will cover topics such as money management, employment, healthy living and safety. Participants will walk away with tools they can use to plan for the future. **Students are encouraged to attend with their families.**

MAY

Section 504 and Students with Disabilities

Wednesday, May 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: MPACT

SSD Central Office, Room 61

The term "Section 504" refers to a specific part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by any program or activity

that receives federal funding. This includes all public schools and any private schools that receive federal funds. Learn about the legal background of Section 504, the evaluation process, 504 plans and services and the procedural safeguards in place to protect individuals with disabilities.



SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents.



Supported Decision Making: Hands-On Toolkit to Build Capacity

Thursday, May 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Sharon Spurlock, Director of Family Support, St.

Louis Arc, and Debra Fiasco, SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness St. Louis ARC, 1177 N. Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63132

Using tools from Missouri Guardianship and Charting the LifeCourse, presenters



SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program Email List



Would you like to receive email updates and notices about our workshops and other events?

Let us know by sending your email address to ssdpeda@ssdmo.org or call 314.989.8460 and we will add you to our email distribution list.

SSD has launched **Let's Talk!**, an online tool that will allow you to submit feedback at your convenience directly to the SSD staff member who can help.



Just visit the SSD website at www.ssdmo.org and look for the **Let's Talk!** button on the homepage.

Let us know what's going well, offer suggestions, ask a question, submit a concern or make a general comment.

Dyslexia and Your School District

SSD has received a number of questions regarding the new Missouri state statute regarding screening and dyslexia.

Dyslexia screening is a process that each school district is responsible for developing, implementing, as well as notifying parents of the results. If you have questions regarding the process for your specific school district, please begin by contacting the principal and/or school counselor for your child's school. For more information on the Missouri state statute, please visit <https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/curriculum/dyslexia>.

For more information about dyslexia or other learning differences, contact the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program by email at ssdpeda@ssdmo.org or by phone at 314.989.8460.

RESOURCE PACKETS FROM SSD'S FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

NEW – Resource packets are now available for immediate use online!

Visit <http://planninganddevelopment.ssdmo.org/resource-packets.html> to download resource packets or to access the order form.

Resource packets contain great articles on the topics below plus a list of books and videos available to check out from the Family & Community Resource Center. You may order up to THREE packets at a time using the order form below. Whenever possible, we will send them through school mail to come home with your child.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ability Awareness | 29. Oppositional Defiant Disorder |
| 2. Anxiety Disorders | 30. Orthopedic Impairment |
| 3. Assistive Technology | 31. Parenting a Child with a Disability |
| 4. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder | 32. SSD Parent Handbook: Overview of SSD, Laws & Parental Rights |
| 5. Autism Spectrum Disorder | 33. SSD Parent Handbook: Evaluation Process |
| 6. Awareness for Grandparents & Extended Family | 34. SSD Parent Handbook: The IEP Process |
| 7. Behavior Strategies | 35. SSD Parent Handbook: The Transition Process |
| 8. Benefits and Estate Planning | 36. SSD Parent Handbook: Resources |
| 9. Bipolar Disorder | 37. SSD Parent Handbook: Glossary & Acronyms |
| 10. Blind/Visually Impaired | 38. Positive Behavioral Support |
| 11. Bullying | 39. Post-Secondary Education |
| 12. Deaf/Hard of Hearing | 40. Reading Strategies & Resources |
| 13. Depression | 41. Self-Esteem |
| 14. Divorce & Children with Special Needs | 42. Sensory Integration |
| 15. Down Syndrome | 43. Sexuality |
| 16. Dyslexia | 44. Siblings |
| 17. Early Childhood Special Education | 45. Speech & Language |
| 18. Encouraging Independence | 46. Stress |
| 19. Executive Functioning | 47. Summer Education & Recreation Resources |
| 20. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) | 48. Supported Decision Making/Guardianship |
| 21. Friendship & Social Skills Strategies | 49. Supported Employment |
| 22. Gifted & Disability | 50. Supported Living |
| 23. Homework Strategies | 51. Talking to Your Child about Their Disability |
| 24. Inclusion Matters | 52. Toilet Training Strategies |
| 25. Intellectual Disabilities | 53. Transition Planning |
| 26. Learning Disabilities | 54. Traumatic Brain Injury |
| 27. Math/Numeracy | 55. Writing Strategies |
| 28. Multiple Disabilities | |

To send information through your child's school, we need the following information:

Your Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Child's Age: _____ Child's Grade Level: _____

Email Address: _____ Child's Special Education Teacher or Therapist: _____

Child's School: _____ School District: _____

Please complete and return this form by mail, phone, email, fax or through your child's SSD teacher to:

SSD Parent Education & Diversity Awareness
12110 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63131

Phone: 314.989.8460 **Deaf/HOH:** 711 **Fax:** 314.989.8449
Email: rdmyers@ssdmo.org

Parent Connection is a publication of the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program of Special School District of St. Louis County.

SSD MISSION: In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

SSD VISION: Partners for each student's success

SSD CORE VALUES:

- Student Success • Collaboration
- Integrity • Stewardship
 - Continuous Improvement
 - Equity • Accountability



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www.ssdmo.org

Special School District Notice of Non-Discrimination and Accommodation: Special School District does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against an individual based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, veteran status, age, or activity protected by federal or state law in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Direct inquiries and complaints under this policy to Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison, 12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131, telephone (314) 989-8100 or to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, telephone (816) 268-0550, fax (816) 268-0599, TDD (800) 877-8339, email OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov. Information about the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities accessible to impaired persons can be obtained from the Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison at the phone number and address listed above.



Special School District of St. Louis County
12110 Clayton Road
Town & Country, MO 63131

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What is SSD's Parent Advisory Council?

SSD's **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** is looking for family members to join the SSD PAC to:

- Provide feedback to influence District policy
- Help improve communication between your school building and SSD
- Network and build a community with other families
- Become informed

To learn more about the PAC, become a representative for your child's school and/or district, or to reach your district's elected representative, contact your SSD area coordinator or school principal, or contact Debra Fiasco at dmfiasco@ssdmo.org or 314.989.8108.

The PAC typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town & Country. **Meetings for the winter semester are scheduled for Jan. 9, Feb. 13, April 10 and May 8.**



Visit the PAC's new website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings:

<https://sites.google.com/a/ssdmo.org/ssdpac>