SPEAK UP!
Empowerment through Effective Communication

2019 STATEWIDE WEBINAR SERIES
Today’s Objectives

- The Law: What IDEA says about a parent’s participation in IEP meetings
- Communication: It’s more than just words!
- Negotiation Tips and Tricks
- Resolving Conflict
Key Legislation

IDEA

- 300.322 (a)
- 300.324 (a) (2)
What is Parent Participation?

SHOW UP

SPEAK UP

STAND UP
Why is Parent Participation Important?

You are the expert on your child!

IDEA: "Almost 30 years of research and experience has demonstrated that the education of children with disabilities can be made more effective by...strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring that families....have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at school and at home."
How Can Parents Participate?

1. Help your team assess your child’s needs

2. Provide input on the IEP goals

3. Keep an eye on your child’s services and supports
Components of Communication

- Verbal
- Non-verbal
- Para-verbal
Communication

Who do you contact...

- When you would like to request additional testing for your child?
- When you would like to add accommodations to the IEP?
- When you do not think the IEP is being followed?
Top 5 Communication Skills

1. Show respect
2. Listen more than you talk
3. State the facts
4. Control your emotions
5. Ask questions
Poll Time!
Negotiation Strategies

- Identify the problem and provide possible solutions
- Communicate with the right person
- Determine who has the information you need
- Keep notes of your communication
- Come with examples of where your idea has been successful
Conflict Resolution

What are my options if I don’t agree?
Conflict Resolution

Option #1
Call a Recess
- Formal
- Informal
Conflict Resolution

Option #2

Request a Facilitated IEP
Speak Up! Empowerment through Effective Communication

Conflict Resolution

Option #3

File a TEA Complaint
Conflict Resolution

Option #4

Request Mediation
Conflict Resolution

Option #5

Request a Due Process Hearing
Poll Time!
Upcoming Webinars

Progress Monitoring - Collaborative Webinar with the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
March 26, 2019 @ 12:15 p.m. CST | In Spanish @ 1:15 p.m. CST

What’s Next? Legal Options for Parents When an ARD Meeting Wasn’t Enough
Colleen Elbe, Disability Rights Texas
Tuesday, April 16 @ 12:15 p.m. CT

Extended School Year - Collaborative Webinar with the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
April 30, 2019 @ 12:15 p.m. CST | In Spanish @ 1:15 p.m. CST

For the full list of upcoming webinars, please go to http://prntexas.org/statewide-webinars
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