



March 2009

TO: District Superintendents  
Superintendents of Schools  
Presidents of Boards of Education  
Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools  
Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools  
New York City Board of Education  
Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education  
Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services  
SETRC Professional Development Specialists  
Regional School Support Centers  
Impartial Hearing Officers  
Mediators  
Other State Agencies

FROM: James P. DeLorenzo

SUBJECT: Special Education Parent Centers

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) announces the addition of eleven (11) new Special Education Parent Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) across New York State (NYS), including five (5) centers in New York City (one per borough) and six (6) additional centers throughout the upstate region. The existing Special Education Parent TACs on Long Island and Western New York will continue, resulting in the operation of thirteen (13) Special Education Parent Centers in NYS. The centers will contribute to the implementation of the NYS Board of Regents Policy on Improving Student Achievement and School Performance through Parent and Family Partnerships.

The Special Education Parent Centers will provide parents of children with disabilities with information, resources, and strategies to:

- promote their meaningful involvement in their children's education programs, including information regarding the special education process (referrals, individual evaluations and individualized education program development and transition planning);
- assist in understanding their children's disabilities;
- promote early resolution of disputes between parents and school districts;
- promote the use of resolution sessions and special education mediation;
- assist in understanding procedural due process rights, including the right to impartial hearings and appeals and the State complaint process; and

- enhance parents' skills and levels of confidence to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other schools and other stakeholders to advocate and actively participate in their children's education program.

In order to promote the development of effective parental and family engagement statewide, the Parent Centers will:

- collaborate with public school districts on methods to facilitate positive parent involvement as a means of improving special education services and results for children with disabilities;
- improve parent participation in the survey process to measure the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities; and
- assist NYSED to identify and promote effective practices for positive parental involvement in the special education process.

The contact information for the Parent Centers is attached and will also be posted on our website at <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm> or you may contact our office at (518) 473-2878.

To ensure dissemination to appropriate individuals within a school district, I ask Superintendents to please share this memorandum with individuals such as Directors of Special Education, School Psychologists, Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Chairpersons, Guidance Counselors, Directors of Pupil Personnel and Parent Teacher Associations.

*\*Please note: If you would like to receive notification of our publications via e-mail, register at [www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm](http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm)*

Attachment

## New York State Special Education Parent Centers

### **Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled**

27 Smith Street, Suite 200,  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
718-998-3000  
718-998-3743 Fax  
Contact person: Marvin Wasserman,  
Executive Director

Region served: NYC - Brooklyn

### **Parent to Parent NY, Inc. The Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene**

1050 Forest Hill Road  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
718-494-3462  
718-494-0319 Fax  
Contact person: Joseph J. Matori- Deputy  
Director

Region served: NYC - Staten Island

### **United We Stand of New York, LTD**

Mail to: 91 Harrison Ave  
Location: 98 Moore Street  
Brooklyn NY 11206  
718-302-4313  
718-302-4315 Fax  
Contact person: Lourdes Rivera-Putz,  
Executive Director

Region served: NYC - Queens

### **Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc**

The Manhattan Parent Center Without Walls  
116 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, New York 10003  
212-677-4650  
212-254-4070 Fax  
Contact person: Rachel Howard, Executive  
Director

Region served: NYC – Manhattan

### **Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc**

The Bronx Parent Center Without Walls  
116 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, New York 10003  
212-677-4650  
212-254-4070 Fax  
Contact person: Rachel Howard, Executive  
Director

Region served: NYC - Bronx

### **Family Resource Network, Inc.**

46 Oneida Street  
Oneonta, NY 13820  
607-432-0001  
607-432-5516 Fax  
Contact person: Pamela J. Larsen

Region served: Southern Region

### Covers the following BOCES:

Broome-Delaware Tioga;  
Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego;  
Otsego-Northern Catskills;  
Greater Southern Tier

**Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies**  
**Syracuse University**  
805 S. Crouse Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13244  
315-443-3851  
315-443-9361 Fax  
Contact person: Steven J. Taylor, PhD,  
Centennial Professor  
Patricia Lowney, Ph.D, Executive Director

Region served: Mid-State

Covers the following BOCES:  
Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego;  
Madison-Oneida;  
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison;  
Oswego County;  
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison;  
Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga;  
Cayuga-Onondaga and  
Syracuse City

**The Westchester Institute for Human Development**  
Cedarwood Hall, Room 326  
Valhalla, NY 10595  
914-493-8204  
914-493-7899 Fax  
Contact person: Ansley Bacon, PhD,  
President and CEO

Region served: Hudson Valley

Covers the following BOCES:  
Dutchess;  
Orange-Ulster;  
Putnam-Northern Westchester;  
Rockland;  
Southern Westchester;  
Sullivan;  
Ulster and  
Yonkers City

**Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Inc**  
210 Court Street, Suite 107  
Watertown, NY 13601  
315-785-8703  
315-785-8612 Fax  
Contact person: Brenda S. Campany,  
Executive Director

Region served: North Country

Covers the following BOCES:  
Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington;  
Franklin-Essex-Hamilton;  
St. Lawrence-Lewis;  
Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida

**The Advocacy Center, Inc.**  
590 South Ave  
Rochester, NY 14620  
1-800-650-4967  
585-546-1700  
585-546-7069 Fax  
Contact person: Paul J. Shew, Executive  
Director

Region served: Mid-West

Covers the following BOCES:  
Genesee Valley;  
Monroe 1;  
Monroe 2 –Orleans;  
Ontario-Seneca-Yates-Cayuga-Wayne; and  
Rochester City

**Wildwood Programs Inc.**

Parent Network of the Capital Region  
1190 Troy Schenectady Road  
Latham, NY 12110  
518-640-3368  
518-640-3401 Fax  
Contact person: Liz DeLibero, Project  
Coordinator

Region served: Eastern

Covers the following BOCES:

Capital Region;  
Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery;  
Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-  
Essex;  
Questar III

**Current Parent Centers**

**The Long Island Parent and Family  
Technical Assistance Center/Just Kids**

887 Kellum St  
Lindenhurst, NY 11787  
631-603-3300 Main number  
631-603-3303 Fax  
1-800-432-0199 Toll free  
Contact:  
Elizabeth DeFazio-Rodriguez - Program  
Coordinator [erdr12@optonline.net](mailto:erdr12@optonline.net)  
Steven Held - Executive Director of Just  
Kids Early Learning Center, Inc.  
Dr. Ginny Barry- Project Administrator

**Parent Network of Western New York**

1000 Main St  
Buffalo, NY 14202  
716-332-4170 Main number  
716-332-4171 Fax  
716-332-4175 Information and referral  
Contact: Susan Barlow - Executive Director  
[srb@parentnetworkwny.org](mailto:srb@parentnetworkwny.org)  
[www.parentnetworkwny.org](http://www.parentnetworkwny.org)