

J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

April 2017



Legislative Update: SB 475 - Developmental Delay

Requires the state board of education to amend its rule establishing developmental delay as a disability category to provide that, beginning July 1, 2018, developmental delay is a disability category solely for students *who are at least three years of age and less than nine years of age*. (Currently, developmental delay is a disability category solely for students who are at least three years of age and not more than *five* years of age.) Adds developmental delay as a category for mild and moderate disabilities for purposes of determining special education grant amounts.

Case Conferences - "To Schedule or Not to Schedule...that is the question."

A case conference needs to be scheduled for the following situations:

- Student has failed IREAD-3
- SCHOOL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE to retain a student
- Extended School Year (ESY) services have been determined by the CCC- completed ESY Guide must accompany the finalized IEP when sending in to the JESSE office (available on JESSE website)
- All of the above apply to all disabilities including Speech-only students as well

Indiana IEP Goal Writing Survey

The Indiana IEP Resource Center and the Office of Special Education are evaluating the current Indiana IEP goal writing process and they would like your feedback. Please consider taking a few moments to complete their survey to help improve IEP processes...

https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8CChhznsqbTO6a1

Tom Dulle Achievement Scholarship

It's that time of year again for high school seniors to start filling out applications for the Tom Dulle Achievement Scholarship. Eligible candidates must have a current IEP in place and attend one of the nine school corporations within the JESSE cooperative. This scholarship is in honor of a man who served 17 years as the first director of JESSE. This is the 18th year for our \$500 scholarship. It is awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in his/her educational career and/or shows promise to further his/her education beyond high school. All applications must be received no later than Friday, May 12, 2017.

*An electronic copy of the scholarship application has already been sent to all high school special education teachers. A copy is also attached to this newsletter.

JESSE Spring Survey

Back in the fall, we had sent out a JESSE Survey to obtain feedback from teachers, administrators, and other personnel who help provide and/or ensure the special education services for students with disabilities throughout our nine school corporations. The feedback was used for staff development and to improve the quality of services/support within the cooperative. On May 1st, we will be sending out a very similar Spring Survey to help compare our results to the fall feedback and determine areas of strength and needs. The Spring Survey has been slightly simplified and should only take a minute or two to complete. Thank you to all who participate to help us gain insight and feedback!

Meet the Staff - Bill McIntyre and Susan Simpson



Bill McIntyre is the teacher for the Plymouth Academy alternative classroom. Bill is completing his 13th year in this position. Previously, his teaching career began in Huntington Schools where he was an ED Teacher for 6 years. Following that, he taught 8 years as an ED Teacher in LaPorte Schools. In addition to his duties as the Plymouth Academy teacher, Bill is also one of the lead instructors for the Marshall County Adult Education Program.

Susan Simpson is the instructional aide for the Plymouth Academy. Susan has been working with Bill for 13 years, and also worked with Bill in Adult Education up until three years ago. Previously, Susan was a licensed secondary-level math teacher for several years working in Plainfield, Williamsport/Attica, and even at Lincoln Jr. High in Plymouth. Bill and Sue make a great team and do a wonderful job at Plymouth Academy.

Plymouth Academy serves special education students in grades 9-12 for all partnering schools within the JESSE cooperative. Plymouth Academy is located right inside the JESSE Central Office. Students attend one of two sessions: 8:00-11:00 EST or 12:00-3:00 EST.