

J.E.S.S.E. Newsletter

August 2017



As the 2017-2018 School Year begins, Rob and I are looking forward to working with you in many areas that will LEAD to Improved Student Outcomes. It is our hope through professional development and communication, we can achieve this goal. Please reach out at any times to contact us via e-mail or by cell. My number is 574-780-2005 and Rob's is 574-952-8332.

Looking forward to working with you.

Linda C. Holland, JESSE Executive Director

CPI (Refresher) Training Dates

August 7th - LaVille Elementary (8:00-11:00 EST); LaVille Jr.-Sr. High (12:00-3:00 EST)

August 9th - NJSP Jr.-Sr. High (7:45-10:45 CST)

August 17th - Triton Admin. Building (8:00-11:00 EST) and (12:00-3:00 EST)

Legislative Updates

SEA 475 - Developmental Delay

A proposal to help identify students with a developmental delay to ensure they receive the state educational resources they need to succeed in school was the first bill offered by Sen. Melton to pass the legislature. SEA 475 will require the State Board of Education to amend its rule stating that developmental delay is a disability only identifiable for students between the ages of three and five, extending the upward age cap to nine years of age based on a recommendation from a 2015 legislative summer study committee. Experts who testified at the committee stated that there is a crucial age gap from five to eight years old where children do not receive necessary services, and this newly enacted law would close that gap. The language will provide a continuum of services for children and their families, reduce inaccurate labeling of children with disabilities, and will be more cost effective in the long term.

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Indiana Department of Education "Short Shares"**

There are currently 11 short share videos by Dr. Pamela Wright, Indiana Director of Special Education. Each video is approximately 5 minutes long, containing informative updates and guidance on several key topics relating to special education.

<http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed>

Document and earn a PGP credit for each video viewed through the IDOE here:

<https://docs.google.com/a/jesse.k12.in.us/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScgV3oqA9LIToUqbVq6C0kwr6PAiF-tOCpkOPp2pcpldrHlgw/viewform>

- **IEP Development: Purpose and Target of Components**

This fall, Linda and I will be coming around to each school corporation in a “roundtable” format of discussion like last year when we reviewed referral/evaluation procedures. This year, we’d like to focus on IEP development with an emphasis on the purpose and target for each component (section). We will also be discussing a slightly different format for our IEP review process for the 2017-18 school year. This is a great opportunity to sharpen your IEP skills, discuss new additions/changes to the IEP system, and gain clarity on sections that may have caused confusion or frustration for you in the past. Dates/times will be scheduled with local administrators and sent out via email. Stay tuned for more details in the next few weeks!

Staffing Changes at J.E.S.S.E.

We have had some personnel changes at JESSE over the summer. Mary Kenney has retired, and Angie Resendez accepted a job elsewhere. Taking their place will be *one* individual - Lisa Rizek. Previously, Lisa served as the Life Skills Teacher at Walkerton Elementary. We are extremely excited to welcome Lisa to our JESSE Team to help improve student outcomes! Lisa will now serve as a **Special Education Facilitator**, which entails serving as the Teacher of Record for the Blind-Low Vision student population, as well as covering revised duties as our Transition-Vocational Coordinator. A survey will be sent to gain feedback on what these revised duties may entail. Details will be finalized at our September Board Meeting and shared with all staff. Please stay tuned.