

Help

Advice

Support

Training

Relationships

Voice



The Purpose of the OSSSC is to....

- Collectively support parents of students receiving or requesting special education services in Olathe District Schools, including services for gifted students.
- Provide training for parents through seminars to enhance their ability to be fully participating members of their child's IEP team.
- Foster positive relationships between parents of students with exceptionalities and school staff.
- Provide advice and support to Olathe District Schools and its continuous improvement processes.
- Act as a sounding board for legislative issues which pertain to special education

Notice of Non-discrimination: The Olathe District Schools prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admissions, access, treatment or employment, in its programs and activities as required by: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Inquiries regarding compliance with applicable civil rights statutes related to ethnicity, gender, the ADA or age discrimination may be directed to Staff Counsel, 14160 Black Bob Road, Olathe, Kansas 66063 - 2000, phone 913-780-7000. All inquiries regarding compliance with applicable statutes regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act may be directed to the Executive Director of Special Services, 14090 Black Bob Rd. Olathe, KS 66062, phone 913-780-8221. Interested persons including those with impaired vision or hearing, can also obtain information as to the existence and location of services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by disabled persons by calling the Executive Director of Special Services. (7/09)

Facilitated IEP Initiative

While the majority of IEP teams come to an agreement quickly, occasionally an IEP team is unable to reach consensus. Consensus is the decision making process used by IEP teams. A consensus decision involves building agreement by the whole group on a course of action. Although individual members (based on their own unique experience and expertise) may feel that other choices may be better for one reason or another, a consensus is built when all members come together on the final choices.

When an IEP team cannot reach consensus, the IEP team may contact their special services coordinator and request a facilitated IEP. Several trained facilitators are available on staff in the district to assist IEP teams as needed.

The facilitator assumes a neutral role, assisting the team with the process of the IEP meeting rather than the content of the IEP. The facilitator supports the IEP team in enhancing relationships among individual members, problem solving as a group, focusing on the student's needs, and experiencing an efficient and productive meeting. The facilitator is not the IEP chair person or a decision maker. Rather, they support the collaborative process of the meeting and assist the team members in reaching consensus.

Benefits of the Facilitated IEP Process:

- Concerns are resolved at the lowest level possible.
- Communication is improved and relationships are strengthened between IEP team members.
- The facilitator is impartial and has no past experience with the student or their IEP team.
- The facilitator helps ensure the meeting is efficient and productive.
- The facilitator helps ensure that everyone is heard.

For more information regarding the Olathe Special Services Site Council, call Sheryl South at 913-780-7024.

Olathe Special Services Site Council 2009-10



The Olathe Special Services Site Council (OSSSC) was developed jointly between the Olathe School District and parents of students with exceptionalities.



Special Services Coordinators

Every school building has a special services coordinator. These coordinators have expertise in special education legal requirements and best practices and are available to assist anyone with questions regarding the special education process.

Olathe Schools special services coordinators:

High School

Karen Bannister
913-780-7042

Junior High

Elaine Fasulo
913-780-7344

Elementary School

Heidi Garza
913-780-7329
Cristan Philipp
913-780-7345

Elementary/ Early Childhood

Kathy Easterly
913-780-7410

Early Childhood Administrator

Carol Affholder
913-780-7015

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OSSSC Seminar Calendar

Location: Instructional Resource Center, 14090 Black Bob Road

Presentation Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Date	Topic	Presenter	Description
September 24	Turning Passions to Pay Checks	Wendy Parent, Asst. Director, KU Center on Disabilities Research	This session will explore transition practices which result in post-school employment outcomes for youth with disabilities. Emphasis will be placed on utilizing a student's passions to find their employment niche.
October 29	Community Services for Students with Disabilities	Rebecca Iveson, CDDO Intake & Referral Coordinator	The Community Developmental Disabilities Organization for Johnson County presents information on how to access funding and services for students with developmental disabilities. Our role as the CDDO is to be the single point of entry for services
December 10	"Navigating the 6-9 Re-Configuration"	Special Services Coordinators	On August 6th, the Olathe Board of Education voted to implement the 6th grade/9th grade school re-configuration in August of 2010. The Coordinators will present the plans in place to make sure this is a smooth transition for all students with disabilities entering middle school in 6th grade and high school in 9th grade.
January 21 6:30-8:30 (Note longer session)	Positive Behavior Support for Parents	Dr. Laura Riffel, Director of Behavior Doctor Seminars	Thirty-three of Olathe schools are implementing School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports (PBS). Come and learn how this process supports the needs of exceptional students. The evening will focus a little on PBS and a lot on how parental involvement can make all the difference in the world. You won't want to miss it!
February 25 6:30-8:30 (Note longer session)	"No More Meltdowns"	Dr. Laura Riffel, Director of Behavior Doctor Seminars	This training will focus on proactive behavioral techniques to "freeze" power struggles, opposition, meltdowns, tantrums and arguing. Dr. Riffel has over 30 years of experience in public schools working with students of all ages and abilities. She will share ideas that work.
April 22 6:30-7:30	"Summer Reading & Math Activities to Prevent Regression"	Mary Jo Fox, OSD Language Arts Facilitator Nancy Hughes, OSD Math Facilitator	Are you ready for summer? Most students will lose some academic skills over summer vacation. This session will provide parents with ideas for summer activities in math and reading that can help prevent regression and keep your student ready for the next grade level in the fall.

If you are planning to attend one or more sessions and need sign language or a Spanish interpreter, please call 913-780-7024.

We are here to assist you.

