

# Dialogue

P A R E N T N E W S L E T T E R

Spring/Summer 2012  
Vol. 23 No. 2

## Let Your Voice be Heard!

### COMPLETE THE 2011-2012 SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT INVOLVEMENT SURVEY.

All parents of school-aged children and youth who receive special education services in Virginia's schools are encouraged to complete the Department of Education's annual Parent Involvement Survey.

This is a great opportunity for parents to provide input to improve services and outcomes for their children. Responses will be kept anonymous. The survey will be made available to the public at the following links from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 to June 30, 2012:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentInvolvementSurvey2011>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ParentInvolvementSurvey2011>

If you are unable to take the survey online, your child's school will provide paper versions for you to use or you may obtain a hard copy of the survey from the Parent Support and Information Center (PSIC). All paper versions of the survey will include a pre-addressed postage paid return envelope. All responses will be sent directly to the Virginia Department of Education.

If you have questions related to the Parent Involvement Survey, please contact Gloria Dalton ([GloriaDalton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:GloriaDalton@doe.virginia.gov)) at the Virginia Department of Education at (804) 371-7420.

#### En Espanol:

Si usted tiene alguna pregunta relacionada con la encuesta acerca de la Participación de los Padres o desea una copia de la encuesta en Español, por favor llame al Centro de Padres que abogan por la Educación Especial de sus Hijos (PEATC) al 1-800-869-6782 or Maria Isabel Frangenberg del Partnership for People with Disabilities al (804) 827-1547

## Become a Surrogate Parent:

A surrogate parent is appointed for children who are suspected of, or identified as having a disability when (1) no parent can be identified; (2) the school division after reasonable efforts cannot discover the location of a parent; or (3) the child is a ward of the state; and the child is an unaccompanied homeless youth.

Those eligible to serve as a surrogate:

- Shall have no interest that conflicts with the interest of the child he or she represents;
- Have knowledge and skills that ensure adequate representation of the child;
- Not be an employee of the Virginia Department of Education, the LEA or any public agency that is involved in the education or care of the child;
- Be an adult and legal citizen of this United States; and
- Reside in the same general geographic area as the child whenever possible

*If you would like to volunteer to serve as a potential surrogate parent, contact the PSIC at (757) 263-2066.*

### Check it Out:

**LITERACY ACCESS ONLINE**- This website provides reading activities and resources for readers and their helpers.

Visit [www.literacyaccessonline.com](http://www.literacyaccessonline.com)

**MOVING FROM PEDIATRIC TO ADULT HEALTH CARE** - This website teaches skills and provides tools for care coordination, keeping a health summary, and setting priorities during the transition process. It features video vignettes that demonstrate health transition skills and interactive tools that foster self-advocacy and collaboration. Visit [www.healthytransitionsny.org](http://www.healthytransitionsny.org)

## What is Extended School Year (ESY)?

Extended School Year (ESY) refers to special education and related services that are provided beyond the regular school year from the public school system for the purpose of providing a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to children with a disabilities. These services are provided at no cost to parents. ESY services are considered as a part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

When the IEP team is considering whether ESY services will be needed, several factors should guide the team's discussion, including:

- Degree of student progress;
- Regression/Recoupment;
- Emerging skills/breakthrough opportunities;
- Interfering behaviors, and
- The nature and/or severity of disability.

The ESY decision is made case-by-case in determining whether services outside the regular school day and/or school year are necessary for the student to receive FAPE. ESY services can be provided in the following ways:

- Learning packages with staff monitoring;
- Home or school-based programs;
- Teacher and parents working together (materials could be sent home with progress periodically monitored by teacher;) or
- In combination with summer school.

When a student needs ESY to benefit from the education program, there are specific goals which should be included from the current IEP. These goals are the basis for determining the amount, duration, the provider, and the place where services will be provided.

### Parent Support and Information Center

Hours of Operation  
Monday 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday- Friday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Evening hours are available by appointment.  
Drop by or call for an appointment.

The Parent Support and Information Center is closed occasionally due to staff meetings or conference attendance.

## SO HAPPY YOU ASKED...

### What does the PSIC do?

- **Serves:** all Virginia Beach City Public School families, school staff, agencies and the community, placing emphasis on children with special needs.
- **Provides:** support through listening and problem solving with individual families.
- **Maintains:** a lending library of books, videos, DVDs, journals, and pamphlets to enhance the understanding of children with special needs.
- **Promotes:** a working relationship among parents, school staff and the community that fosters successful partnership to increase educational opportunities for all children.
- **Offers:** trainings, workshops, and resources for parents and school staff for building positive parent school partnerships.

The PSIC hours are Monday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Our summer hours of operation begin June 18 until August 24 and will run Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. The center is closed on Fridays. After hour appointments are available. We welcome the opportunity to serve you.

## Special Education Advisory Committee

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is a group of parents, community agency representatives, and educators who are concerned with the development of quality education for students with disabilities. All committee meetings are open to the public. Prior to the business portion of the meeting, time is allotted for public comment. This is a time for sharing successful educational experiences and/or expressing concerns regarding educational issues.

Meetings for the 2012-2013 school year will begin in August. The remaining 2011-2012 scheduled meetings are listed below. For further information, please contact the PSIC at 263-2066.

<b>Monday, March 12, 2012</b>	Landstown High School	6:30 p.m.
<b>Monday, April 16, 2012</b>	Laskin Road Annex, room 25	9:00 a.m.
<b>Monday, May 14, 2012</b>	Laskin Road Annex, room 25	9:00 a.m.
<b>Monday, June 11, 2012</b>	Laskin Road Annex, room 25	9:00 a.m.

## Upcoming Workshops

The PSIC will sponsor the following workshops for parents, teachers, and students. All workshops are **free**. Register by contacting the PSIC at (757) 263-2066 or email Dr. Brenda Reid, at [Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com](mailto:Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com) with your name, number of attendees, and phone number where you can be reached. Registration assists in planning for materials, seating, and refreshments.

### Taking the First Step From Pre-school to Kindergarten

*Come, see, and learn about the skills your child will be taught at the Kindergarten level. Bring your preschooler so he/she can participate in the activities. There will be a question and answer time for parents.*

**March 19, 2012**

**6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.**

Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

### Moving to the Next Levels: Elementary to Middle and Middle to High School

*Would you like to know how to prepare your child for the next level of his/her education? Join us for an informative session presented by middle/high school guidance counselors and department chairpersons.*

*Registration is required. However, there is no charge to attend. Students and parents are invited. Contact the PSIC at 263-2066 or email Dr. Reid at [Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com](mailto:Brenda.Reid@vbschools.com)*

**April 18, 2012**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library  
4100 Virginia Beach Blvd.  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452

## Lunch and Learn Video Sessions

You are invited to watch informative educational videos each month at the PSIC. Bring your lunch or snacks and join us for a video and discussion. Drinks and popcorn will be provided. The video viewing time is from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. on the following listed dates.

### Guardianship - Rights, Risks, and Responsibilities March 7, 2012

Sue Swenson, former Ex. Director, US Arc, and former Commissioner of Administration on Developmental Disabilities will provide an understanding of the state directive about guardianship, conservatorship, powers of attorney and other information available to families. It is important for families to understand the full responsibilities and risks associated with assuming guardianship of their children. Sue Swenson, a parent and longtime internationally renowned advocate, outlines the questions parents should be asking prior to taking these steps.

### Successfully Educating Preschoolers with Special Needs April 26, 2012

This video clearly describes the wonderful benefits of preschool for children with special needs. The special education services that are available for preschoolers who meet the criteria are explained by experts in the field along with experienced parents.

Key areas covered in the video are:

- *Choosing a Preschool;*
- *Evaluation Process into Special Education;*
- *Preparing for School meetings;*
- *Related Services; and*
- *Transitioning to kindergarten*

### Encouraging Positive Behavior May 16, 2012

This video will help parents understand discouraging and encouraging influences, and how you can promote cooperative behavior at school. Learn effective and positive discipline methods, and ways you can support your school's discipline efforts.

### How Difficult Can this Be? The F.A.T. City Workshop June 13, 2012

For a child with learning disabilities, the classroom can be an intimidating place. In this workshop, Richard D. Lavoie shows why. He leads a group of parents, educators, psychologists, and children through a series of exercises that cause frustration, anxiety, and tension...feelings all too familiar to children with learning disabilities. By dramatizing the classroom experience so vividly, Lavoie lets us see the world through the eyes of a child.

*"Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success."  
Henry Ford*

## Subscribe to *Dialogue* Online

The Web address for Virginia Beach City Public Schools is **vbschools.com**. On the homepage, there is an opportunity to subscribe to the school division publications that interest you. In the upper right corner click on Connect to **VBSCHOOLS XTRA online subscription**. The next page will provide a listing of publications, including *Dialogue*, that are available through the online subscription service. To access the most recent copy, click on *Dialogue* in the descriptive text.

### The Parent Support & Information Center

Laskin Road Annex, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, (757) 263-2066, [brenda.reid@vbschools.com](mailto:brenda.reid@vbschools.com)

*The Parent Support & Information Center is a part of the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children, Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The purpose of the center is to provide parents of students with disabilities information and training to be participants with educators in the processes that enable students with disabilities to acquire knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenges of the future. The Parent Support & Information Center offers a lending library, a newsletter, a variety of workshops, phone/walk-in consultation, and other services to parents and educators. All center services are free.*

Published by Virginia Beach City Public Schools Office of Programs for Exceptional Children Parent Support & Information Center  
*Dialogue* is a publication of the Office of Programs for Exceptional Children, Parent Support & Information Center,  
Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-0038.  
James G. Merrill, Ed.D., *Superintendent*; Sheila S. Magula, Ed.D., *Deputy Superintendent*; Daisy B. Wood, Ed.D., *Director*,  
Office of Programs for Exceptional Children; Brenda D. Reid, Ed.D., *Coordinator*, Parent Support & Information Center.

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, will empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community.

The Virginia Beach City Public Schools prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, pregnancy and childbirth, or marital status. School Board policies and supporting regulation (Policies 2-33, 4-4, 5-7, and 6-7 and Regulation 5-44.1) provide equal access to courses, programs, counseling services, physical education and athletics, vocational education, instructional materials, and extracurricular activities. Violations of these policies should be reported to the Director of Student Leadership at 263-2020 or the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at 263-1133.

Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, braille, or large print materials, are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write the Parent Support & Information Center, 1413 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451, 263-2066 *Voice*, 263-2067 *fax*, or email [brenda.reid@vbschools.com](mailto:brenda.reid@vbschools.com).



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
A H E A D O F T H E C U R V E

Visit our Web site at [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com) - your virtual link to Hampton Roads' largest school system

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 120  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

School Administration Building  
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Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456-0038

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