

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

JANUARY 13, 2020



TIPS FOR 2020

I can't believe it is already semester time of the 2019-2020 school year. This means we are already half way done with the 2019-2020 school year. Time goes by so fast. Happy New Year! I thought for the New Year I would share with you tips that have been provided to me as a special educator. Hope these tips come in handy.

Child-Find/Identification Tips:

- ✓ Every school should have a trained and effective "Problem Solving Team"
- ✓ Referral for an evaluation is required when there is "reason to suspect" that the student may be a child with a disability.
- ✓ Do not wait for parents to initiate a referral for an evaluation.
- ✓ When there is a debate, evaluate!

Evaluation Tips:

- ✓ Always conduct evaluations within time requirements to avoid exposure for the cost of private placements.
- ✓ Make sure to obtain copies of the private evaluations that parents refer to as part of the evaluation and eligibility process.
- ✓ Remember that giving consideration to a parent's private evaluation does not require the school district to agree with the recommendations contained in those evaluations. It is however, a good practice to show where the information was reviewed and recommendations incorporated when appropriate.
- ✓ Propose a new evaluation when a student is not succeeding in school or it is clear that there is a change in the student's situation.

Eligibility Tips:

- ✓ Adhere to applicable State eligibility requirements, such as definitions, criteria and minimally required evaluations and other data.
- ✓ Make reasonably timely eligibility determinations.
- ✓ Provide the parent an opportunity to fully and meaningfully participate in the eligibility decision.
- ✓ Seek input from parents regarding a referral, even if they cannot attend meetings.

"Through collaboration with member districts, the SLV BOCES brings a culture of excellence to education. The SLV BOCES empowers schools, families, and communities by providing services, support, and leadership to promote student achievement and success in life for all."



Upcoming Events:

- January 14- SAC
- January 15- Board Meeting
- January 16- Zoom Office Hour
11:30-12:30
- January 17- CPI Training
- January 21- Steering Committee
- February 7- Staff Meeting/MTSS
Team Training
- February 11- SAC
- February 17- Office Closed

IEP/Placement Tips:

- ✓ Always implement what is written in the IEP.
- ✓ Do not include in the EP what the school district does nor find educationally suitable for the student or which infringe on the administrative prerogative of the school district personnel.
- ✓ Do not have the same identical IEP for all students in the same class or program (this lacks individualization) and do not use the same IEP for a student from year to year (this shows lack of growth).
- ✓ Do not use a vote to make decisions in IEP meetings. Decisions are made by consensus.

Discipline Tips:

- ✓ Be sure to check whether a student has a disability prior to recommending discipline this way special education discipline processes can be followed.
- ✓ The manifestation team is required to consider all relevant information from the student's file. Be sure to ask parents if there is any additional information from the file that needs to be highlighted.
- ✓ Do not mistakenly believe that the manifestation team cannot reach consensus because the parents do not agree with the determination. A decision must be determined.
- ✓ Provide educational services to a student with disabilities for each day removal after the first 10 days in the school year.

FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education) Tips:

- ✓ Goals and objectives (if needed) must be measurable so that growth can be measured.
- ✓ Progress on goals and objectives need to be provided to parents at the same rate as report cards go out.
- ✓ Progress monitoring is imperative to show growth and FAPE for the students.
- ✓ FAPE orders school districts to provide access to general education (as much as appropriate) and specialized educational services.

Transition

- ✓ Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals must be written in education/training, career/employment and independent living skills when appropriate ("will" not "want").
- ✓ Written Courses of study needs to be multiyear from the current age of the student to exit, is specific, individualized, and linked to the PSGs.
- ✓ Make sure there is documentation of the student invitation.
- ✓ The notice of meeting must indicate that a purpose of the meeting will be the consideration of the postsecondary goals and transition services.

Have an amazing second half of the 2019-2020 school year.

Congratulations to the Star Employees.

December- Natasha Carizal, Speech Therapist and Luron Singer, McKinney Vento/EARSS/Ed. Stability Grant

Thank you both for your hard work.

