

OrPTI's Partner Programs

Mission

Our goal is to educate and support parents, families and professionals in building partnerships that meet the needs of children and youth with the full range of disabilities ages birth to twenty-six.

Partners Program

- IEP Partners
- Mediation Partners
- Transition Partners

IEP Partners Program

- **Volunteers providing parents support at IEP meetings**
 - **Partners attend a two-day training before they are approved volunteers**
 - **Work with parents before the meeting**
 - **Confidential**

Mediation Partners

- Support Parents at a Mediation
- Training includes 2 day IEP Partners Training, plus an additional 2 day Mediation Training
- Mediation Partners are experienced IEP Partners and are recruited by Invitation Only

Transition Partners

- Support Parents at a Transition Meeting
- Training includes 2 day IEP Partners Training, plus an additional 2 day Transition Training

Who are IEP Partners?

- IEP Partners are:
 - Parents who have kids with disabilities,
 - Retired special education teachers,
 - CASA volunteers
 - Others

IEP Partners Training

- Communication
- Parent Professional Partnership
- IEP Process
- Transition
- Statewide Assessment
- Behavior/Discipline
- EI/ECSE
- Dispute Resolution
- 504

Role of an IEP Partner

- IEP Partner vs. Advocate
 - See Handout

Prior to the IEP meeting

- Phone or in person consultation with parent(s)
 - Have parents read current IEP
 - Help parents prepare for the IEP meeting
 - Develop an agenda
 - Review Procedural Safeguards before the meeting

IEP Meeting Prep Sheet

- Partners contact the family prior to the IEP meeting and prepare the parent for the upcoming IEP meeting.
- IEP Prep Sheet is their guide
 - See handout

During the IEP meeting

- General support to the parent
- Take notes for the parent
- Make sure the parent understands the process
- Make sure parents understand what was discussed before moving on to the next item of discussion.

After the IEP meeting

- Debrief
- If parents are happy, say goodbye!
- If parents are not in agreement with IEP, help them identify the issues and coach them to write a letter and call another IEP meeting.

Who are Mediation Partners?

- Mediation Partners are:
 - IEP Partners selected for the program
 - Must have had positive experiences as an IEP Partner

Mediation Partners Training

- In addition to their training as an IEP Partner they receive an additional 2 days of training including a session with our Department of Education's Conflict Resolution Specialist.

Role of an Mediation Partner

- Support the parent in
Mediation

Prior to the Mediation

- Phone or in person consultation with parent(s)
 - Have parents consider the issues
 - Help parents prepare for the mediation
 - Look at interests rather than positions

Mediation Prep Sheet

- Partners contact the family prior to the IEP meeting and prepare the parent for the upcoming mediation.
- Mediation Prep Sheet is their guide
 - See handout

During the Mediation

- General support to the parent
- Take notes for the parent
- Make sure the parent understands the process
- Make sure parents understand what was discussed before moving on to the next item of discussion.

After the Mediation

- Help parents identify next steps.

Who are Transition Partners?

- Transition Partners are:
 - IEP Partners who have expressed an interest in transition
 - Attend additional training

Transition Partners Training

- Transition process (IDEA)
- Employment
- Post-Secondary Education
- Self Advocacy
- Age of Majority
- Person Centered Planning
- Resources for transition

Transition Partner Role

- Consult with parents and student prior to the meeting.
- Share resource ideas
- Help prepare an agenda for the meeting
- Brainstorm other agencies to invite

Partner role at the meeting

- Take notes for the family
- The notes become the families property when the meeting is concluded.

Contact Information

- Call us at 503-581-8156 or 888-505-2673 (toll-free in state only)
- Help-line 888-891-6784
- Fax us at: 503-391-0429
- E-mail us at: info@orpti.org
- Website - <http://www.orpti.org>