

**Family Resource  
Center for  
Disabilities &  
Special Needs**

# The Coalition

**Parent Training  
& Resource  
Center (PTRC)**

**Summer 2017**

## **Finally! Uniform High School Diplomas**

On May 19, 2017, Governor McMaster signed Senate Bill S462. This bill created a uniform employability credential for students with disabilities who are not on the high school diploma track but are capable of being employed. Students who are eligible for this employability diploma will be determined by a team that will include the student and parents.

This new law will require schools to provide personalized pathways for students to earn this new diploma and to provide related course of study-based endorsements. Students will be able to earn credits for on-the-job training and career preparation classes.

According to the Bill, "The State Board of Education, through the Department of Education and in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the Department of Employment and Workforce, businesses, and stakeholders shall develop criteria for a uniform state-recognized employability credential that is aligned to the program of study for students with a disability whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines, and agrees in writing, that a diploma pathway would not provide a free appropriate public education. The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the department, shall develop a rubric and guidelines to identify and assess the employability skills of the students, based on appropriate standards established. The credentials must be uniform in size, shape, and design."

Coursework must be aligned with a student's personalized diploma pathway. The individualized graduation planning process must plan each student's personalized pathway based on their postsecondary plans.

This law takes effect with students entering the ninth grade in 2018-19, meaning

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## **Now What?**

Many parents reading this are very much aware of how hard it is to find a summer program for their child with a disability. Many day care centers are not equipped to provide services and this may often be true for summer camps as well. The hard fact is that options for our children are limited. We've done a little research for you and here's what we've found. Unfortunately due to unexpected problems with the distribution of this newsletter, some of the camp information may be out of date or deadlines passed. We apologize for the inconvenience.

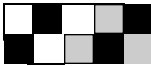
**Charleston County Parks & Recreation (CCPRC)** offers a variety of camp activities for children age 6 to 16. Many children with special needs participate with minimal accommodations. For a complete listing of camps, fees, dates, and application information go to [ccprc.com](http://ccprc.com) and click on summer camps

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## **Summer Food Service Program**

The SC Dept. of Education has kicked-off the annual Summer Food Service Program which serves FREE nutritious meals to ANY child under the age of 18 at community sites across the state from Monday June 5 -Friday August 5. Schools in Berkeley, Dorchester, & Charleston Counties, as well as churches and numerous other community locations are providing children and youth with a free hot breakfast and lunch. There are too many locations in the tri-county to list (well over 100) so make sure you call 866-348-3479 to locate your most convenient location. Although times may vary by location, breakfast is usually served from 7:30-8:30 and lunch from 10:00-12:00 PM. For additional information contact the SC Department of Education at 843-734-8500.

**Comidas nutritivas GRATUITAS a CUALQUIER niño menor de 18 años. Llamada 877-842-6273**



## Summer Camps - continued

or contact the camp director at 843-762-2172.

CCPRC also offers adaptive recreation events and special needs swim night at Wannamaker Park in June and July and other events in other locations. For more information contact the Parks and Program Services at 843-795-4386 or go online to ccprc.com. You can find a full camp guide for Charleston County at: <http://www.charleston-sc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14681>

For children with special needs, **Camp Rise Above** offers several two-day camp experiences with Charleston County Parks and Recreation. Camp programs begin in June and end in July. Each two day program focuses on a specific condition and there is no charge to families. Trained counselors and medical staff are on site each day. The schedule for the remainder of the summer is as follows :  
June 29-30: Children with Epilepsy, Tourette’s, and Traumatic Brain Injury  
July 10-11: Children with Down Syndrome  
July 13-14: Children with Cerebral Palsy  
Times are from 8:00am to 3:00pm each day  
Activities include: Water Park Fun, Paddle Boating, Fishing, Archery, Climbing Wall, Arts and Crafts, Environmental Education, and a Summer Entertainment Series. CCPR’s professional activities staff include on-site medical team and volunteer counselors. For more information and to check availability contact: Camp Rise Above at 843-300-9100 or email Erin Marie Ulmer, Executive Director at: [erinu@campriseabove.org](mailto:erinu@campriseabove.org)

The **Children’s Museum of the Low Country** offers short summer camp programs both full and half day format. Children age 3-10 can engage in a variety of supervised hands on activities. Most camp programs are five days and children must be independent in toileting to attend. Extended before and after care is available. For more info call 843-853-8962 or visit: [www.exploreclm.org](http://www.exploreclm.org).

**Summerville Family Y** offers a variety of summer camp programs to children of all ages. Some accommodations can be made for children with special needs and there are several camp locations in the Summerville area. For more information call the welcome desk at 843-871-9622 or visit: [www.summervilleymca.org](http://www.summervilleymca.org).

**2017 Camp Communication Vacation ~ “Superheroes SuperEARos”** - Sponsored by MUSC Speech Pathology & Audiology - This camp

is for youth ages 4 – 12 years with hearing impairment. The camp is designed to provide communication, language stimulation, and socialization in a fun and interactive environment. Camp is Monday, July 17 – Friday, July 21, 2017 from 8:30 am – 11:30 am at Second Presbyterian Church, 342 Meeting St., Charleston. The camp is free & application deadline is June 16, 2017. Completed applications should be mailed to: Nevitte Morris MUSC Dept of OTO-HNS 135 Rutledge Avenue, MSC 550 Charleston, SC 29425 Or Emailed to: [swink@musc.edu](mailto:swink@musc.edu). For more information, Call 843-792-6136.

### Special Needs Swim Nights

July 15 - 6:30 - 8:30 - \$9 per person, free for children under 2 at Whirlin' Waters Adventure Waterpark at North Charleston Wannamaker County Park, 8888 University Blvd., N. Charleston.  
July 29 - 6:30 - 8:30 - \$7 per person, free for children under 2 at Splash Zone, JI County Park, 871 Riverland Dr., Charleston.  
A paid chaperone is required for all participants. To avoid the line, advanced purchase is recommended. If you purchase advanced admission, you must keep and present your receipt to gain admission into the event. For more info: 843-795-4386

### Uniform High School Diploma

*Continued*

that the state credentials will start to be granted to the Class of 2022.

The State Department of Education will closely monitor the number of students working towards the credential and report its findings twice a year starting in 2020. To read a full version of Bill S462 visit: [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122\\_2017-2018/bills/462.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122_2017-2018/bills/462.htm)

### Get in the Know

#### Check out these informative websites:

Youth Employment Solutions (YES!) Center. Their mission is to improve competitive, integrated employment outcomes for transition-aged youth and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. <https://www.yestoemployment.org/>

Parent and Educator Resource Guide to Section 504 in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html>

## Special Needs Prom

Friday, August 18, 2017 - 6 - 8 PM  
Arthur W. Christopher Community Center  
265 Fishburne Street, Charleston, SC

People with special needs and their families and friends are invited to a prom! Dance the night away while enjoying your favorite music. Advance purchase is recommended for \$ 4 per person, chaperones and children under 3 get in free. Admission will be sold for \$5 on-site if still available. If you purchase admission in advance, you must keep and present your receipt to gain admission into the event. Come dressed in your best attire. Call 843-795-4386 to register.



## Mom's Night Out!!

Join other moms of children with disabilities for food, fun, & conversation at Ruby Tuesdays at 1320 N. Main St., Summerville on June 29th from 6 - 7:30 for food & fun.

## Morning Coffee!

Another opportunity for food & fun happens monthly on the 3rd Tues of the month at 10 AM. Beginning on June 20th, and continuing through summer, the group will meet at Chic-fil-A, 1312 N. Main, Summerville. This location was chosen because of the play area so that children can be entertained if parents need to bring them along. After August, the Morning Coffee spot is Panera Bread, 1311 N. Main, Summerville.

Both of these are recurring events. For more information contact Michelle at 843-300-8120

## How Would You Like Your Coalition?

Back in September we announced renewed grant funding for the Family Resource Center's Parent Training and Resource Center (PTRC). This was great news. However, despite providing support to more and more families, the amount of the award has never been increased. So we've had to think of cost saving measures and one of the ways we are trying to save money is by offering the option of receiving only an electronic version of this newsletter instead of the printed copy. If we have your email address you will have received this via that method. If you get the electronic version but prefer printed, please call the office. If you receive the print version & prefer an electronic version please call the office. We want to hear from you regarding your preferred method if different than the way you received this edition.

Contact us at 843-266-1318.

## Disagreements & Complaints

Sometimes, parents and school districts may disagree on a child's Individual Education Program and each feel their position is correct. In cases such as these, when a disagreement or complaint exists, there are methods of dispute resolution. Following is a brief introduction to special education dispute resolution processes. This information is not intended to interpret, modify, or replace any IDEA Part B procedural safeguards or requirements of federal or state law. The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE) provides this information on Dispute Resolution Processes:

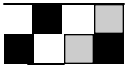
**IEP Facilitation:** This is an optional early resolution (available in South Carolina but NOT required by the IDEA) where an impartial facilitator assists the IEP team with communication and problem solving. Facilitation is used when a parent and school district are unable to agree on important issues related to a child's IEP, or when a meeting is expected to address complex issues or be controversial. IEP facilitation can be requested by the parent, school district, or recommended by a state educational agency as an alternative to a more formal process. IEP facilitation allows all members of the team the chance to partici-

## May Was Williams Syndrome Awareness Month

In April there was horrible shooting at North Park Elementary School in San Bernardino, CA that took the lives of a special education teacher and one of her students, Johnathan Martinez, who had Williams Syndrome. While grieving for their only son, the boy's parents asked school officials to tell the world about the condition that landed their child in the special-needs classroom, where he was killed. San Bernardino Unified City School District Superintendent Dale Marsden said that the family wants - in the boy's memory - the nation to be aware and conscious of what Williams syndrome is.

Williams syndrome (WS) is a genetic condition that is present at birth and can affect anyone. It is characterized by medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities. These often occur side by side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music. Unlike disorders that can make connecting with your child difficult, children with Williams syndrome tend to be social, friendly

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## Looking for a Support Group?

**Trident Head Injury Support Group:** meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 PM at the HASCI Drop In Center, Westwood Plaza (intersection of Hwys 7 & 61), Suite 6, next to Hancock Fabrics. For more info: Marsha Mikell at 843-881-1214 or Colin DeResta at 843-852-5550. Follow on Facebook.

**Down Syndrome Association of the Low Country:** sponsors four Information Programs and four Social Events each year - in addition to Mothers Night Out. For a complete calendar of events, check their website at: [www.dsalowcountry.org](http://www.dsalowcountry.org) or follow them on Facebook. You may also call: 843-654-1552.

**Parent & Guardian Association of the Coastal Center:** This group supports those with a family member residing at the Coastal Center. General meetings are held four times a year. For more information contact Linda Bodiford at 843-821-5809 or Suzanne at 843-276-1001.

**Rett's Syndrome Support:** Families in need of a contact person to access support services for girls with Rett's Syndrome may call Hollis Gunn at 843-847-1248.

**Low Country Breeze:** This group is open to any person with a spinal cord injury or other mobility difficulties. The meetings provide a forum for the members to discuss issues and concerns and receive immediate feedback. Some members use the meetings to brainstorm possible solutions to ongoing problems. In addition, the group provides members with opportunities to develop a social network. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday evening of every month (6:00-8:00 PM) at AccessAbility, 7944 Dorchester Rd, #5, North Charleston. There are also special events throughout the year. For more information & to keep current with group activities contact Barb Delia at 843-557-4827.

**Grief Support Group for Children** - Bereavement group for children ages 8-12 (1 group) and 13-15 (2nd group) sponsored by Heartland Hospice, 1064 Gardner Rd, Suite 204, Charleston. For more information contact Kimberly at Heartland Hospice, 843-766-7646. **PLEASE NOTE: This group is on temporary break**

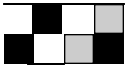
**Sickle Cell Sisters** (for teenage girls with sickle cell disease) is a therapeutic support group for teenage girls between the ages of 13 and 18. The group meets every other month at MUSC Children's Hospital and focuses on psychosocial aspects of living with sickle cell disease. For more information call Michelle Thompson at 843-792-0792.

**The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI)** of the Charleston area offers support group meetings for individuals who suffer from a brain disorder and for family members and caregivers of those who have severe and persistent mental illness. Meetings are held at various locations and times. 1<sup>st</sup> Tues of the Month: *Moncks Corner Baptist Church, 500 East Main Street, Moncks Corner, SC 29461, 6-7:15 PM, in the Fellowship Hall beside the church.* 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. of the Month: *Seacoast Church, Mount Pleasant, 750 Long Point Road, Mt. Pleasant. Enter from Egypt Road. Meetings are held at 6 PM. Family Support Group in Trailer #21 & Connection Support Group in Trailer #22.* 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon of the Month: *Seacoast Church, West Ashley, 2049 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, Use the Main Entrance. Support: 6:00-7:15 PM, Education: 7:30-8:30 PM. Education meetings for consumers and family members are held together. The speakers discuss various issues related to mental health.* 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of the Month: *Bethany United Methodist Church, 118 West Third South Street, Summerville, 6:00-7:30 PM.* For more information, call Eric Hansen at 843-872-5080 or visit <http://namisc.org/>

**Summerville Autism Support** - Join the Summerville ASD Mom's Facebook page to keep up with activities. The group meets frequently, but irregularly, for a night out. Please call Jodi Hortman (870-3485) for info.

**Epilepsy Support Group** for families of children with epilepsy meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Cathedral of Praise, Bldg. A, Room 103, 3790 Ashley Phosphate Rd., N. Charleston. Look for SAFE sign outside building. The Group meets from 11am-1pm (First hour is education/business meeting, second hour is support group) For more information contact Karen St. Marie at 843-991-7144 or at [Karen@scepilepsy.org](mailto:Karen@scepilepsy.org). Also check out their Facebook page under "South Carolina Advocates for Epilepsy".

**Low Country Autism Support Group** sponsored by the Early Autism Project meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Early Autism Project Clinic, 1123 Queensborough Dr., Mt. Pleasant, from 6:30-7:30. Speakers will be invited to each meeting and refreshments are served. Childcare is provided but you must register in ad-



vance for the free service. You do not have to be a client of the Early Autism Project to participate. Saturday respite events are being planned for every other month. For more information and to register for child care, call Anna Bullard at 912-293-5217 or visit [abullard@earlyautism.com](mailto:abullard@earlyautism.com)

**Support Group for Spanish Speaking Families:** 4th Friday of each month from 6-8 PM at the MUSC Northwoods Clinic, 2070 Northbrook Blvd., Suite A-16, N. Charleston. Call Martha at 843-876-2505.

**Limbs Without Limits** is an organization committed to support, motivate and empower individuals living with a mobility impairment. A support group meets the 2nd Tues. of each month at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital Cafeteria, 9181 Medcom St., North Charleston from 6-8 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a family member or close friend. For more info call: (843) 725-9301

**Looking for Someone to Talk with about Autism?** There are two on-line ways to reach out to others in the "autism community." There is an on-line support group for teachers, professionals, service providers & family members. To subscribe, send a blank email to: [autismsouthcarolina-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:autismsouthcarolina-subscribe@yahoo.com). Also, there is a discussion group for parents & families who want to share their joys, stories, challenges, and solutions. To subscribe, send a blank email to: [scautismforum-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:scautismforum-subscribe@yahoo.com)



**Family Corps** offers a variety of trainings to adults in the community that are interested in learning more about child abuse prevention and parenting. They also offer **Parent & Youth Support Groups** throughout the Tri-County.

Group Designations are described as: (P) Open group: adult caregiver support group which includes parents, foster parents, and adoptive parents; (K) Relative Placements Group; (C) separate children's group for children ages 3-9; (Y) separate children's group for children ages 10-17; (SN) special needs group; (AM) Anger Management; & Spanish

The following provides the locations for the noted designated groups:

Cherokee UMC Church (P,C,Y,K,Spanish,AM), 2105 Cosgrove Ave, N. Charleston - Tuesdays at 6 PM

Cherokee UMC Church (SN), 2105 Cosgrove Ave, N. Charleston - Tuesdays At 6 PM

Neighborhood House (P,K), 77 America St., Charleston - Fridays at 1:30 PM

Oakbrook Y (P,C,Y,K,AM), 900 Cross Creek Dr, Summerville - Thursdays at 7 PM (Childcare provided)

Our Lady of Mercy Outreach (P,C,Y,K,Spanish), 1684 Brownswood Rd., Johns Island - Mondays at 6 PM

Dorchester County Prosperity Ctr (P,C,Y,K,AM) 222 Old Trolley Rd, Summerville - Thursdays at 6 PM

Berkeley County Prosperity Ctr (P,C,Y,K,AM), 325 Main St., Moncks Corner - Thursdays at 6:00 PM

In addition, Family Corps provides other parenting programs that require pre-enrolment. These include a Strengthening Families Program that meets Mondays from 6-8:30 PM, a 12 week Anger Management program (nominal fee charged) from 5-6 on Tuesdays, and the 6 week Triple P Positive Parenting Program (\$60 cost). To register and for more information, please call: 843-747-0480.

Also, there is a support group for parents of children with Aspergers, High Functioning Autism, Anxiety and related conditions that meets every Tuesday from 6:00-7:30 PM at Cherokee United Methodist Church, 2105 Cherokee Ave. North Charleston. Childcare is provided free of charge.

**Un grupo de soporte para familias de habla Hispana se reune el cuarto Viernes de cada mes de las 6 a las 8 en la Clinica MUSC Northwoods 2070 Northbrook Blvd, Suite A-16, North Charleston. Para mayor informacion llame a Martha al (843) 876-2505.**

### **Padres y grupos de apoyo juveniles**

**Grupo de apoyo de cuidadores adultos que incluye padres, padres adoptivos y adoptantes; Grupo de colocación familiar; Grupo de niños para niños edades 3-9; Grupo de infantil para niños edades 10-17**

*We try our best to keep this information current. If your group is listed here and no longer meets or if you have a group that should be listed but isn't, please call us: 843-266-1318*



## Dispute Resolution - Continued

pate fully, since the facilitator serves as the meeting leader. The outcome or desired result is an IEP that is supported by the team members and benefits the child.

**Mediation:** A voluntary process that brings people together with a mediator, who helps them communicate with each other and resolve their disagreements. Mediation is a flexible process and discussions are confidential; participants may influence the process, and ultimately determine the outcome. It is available anytime there is a disagreement between parents and educators about special education and/or related services. Mediation can be requested by the parent, school district, or recommended by a state educational agency as an alternative to a more formal process. The outcome or desired result is a signed, legally enforceable, written agreement.

**Resolution Meeting:** A meeting that takes place after a parent files a due process complaint/hearing request but before a due process hearing takes place. It is used to resolve issues listed in a due process complaint/hearing request. The meeting must occur within 15 calendar days of receiving notice of a parent's due process complaint/hearing request unless the parent and school district agree in writing to use the mediation process instead. The outcome or desired result is a signed, legally enforceable, written agreement that resolves issues listed in the due process complaint/hearing request. Resolution meetings only occur after a due process complaint/hearing request is filed.

**Written State Complaint:** A written document used to communicate that a public agency (e.g., school district) has not followed the IDEA, and to request an investigation. This option is available anytime there is a concern about a particular child or an issue that affects children system-wide. Any person or organization may file a written state complaint. The outcome or desired result is a written decision that includes findings and conclusions, and lists reasons for the final decision. It must also include actions required to address the needs of the child or children related to the complaint. This is the only dispute resolution option open to any person or organization, including those unrelated to the child. The final decision may include corrective actions that are child-specific or relate to system-wide issues.

**Due Process Complaint/ Hearing Request:** A process used to resolve a formal complaint made by a parent *or* public agency (e.g., school district), who are together referred to as "the parties." It is used to resolve disagreements relating to the identification,

evaluation, educational placement or provision of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) to a child who needs or is suspected of needing special education and related services. The outcome or desired result is a written decision with findings of fact and conclusions of law, which may order specific activities to be carried out. A formal record of the hearing (a written or electronic transcript) must be made and provided to the parent. The decision is appealable in state or federal court and the prevailing party may attempt to recover attorneys' fees in a separate court action.

**Expedited Hearing Request & Resolution Meeting:** This is a special type of due process complaint/hearing request available only in certain situations that relate to a student's discipline and placement and it may be filed by a parent or school district. It is used when parents disagree with a school district's discipline-related decision that affects their child's placement, or whether the child's behavior is related to his or her disability. A school district may use this process if it believes that a child's behavior could be dangerous to the child or others. The outcome or desired result is a written decision with findings of fact and conclusions of law, which may order the child to be provided with a specific educational placement. A formal record of the hearing (a written or electronic transcript) must be made and provided to the parent. The decision is appealable in state or federal court and the prevailing party may attempt to recover attorneys' fees in a separate court action.

For more information on dispute resolution visit the CADRE website: <http://www.cadeworks.org/>  
A dispute resolution comparison chart can be found at: <http://www.cadeworks.org/sites/default/files/resources/Dispute%20Resolution%20Process%20Comparison%20Chart.pdf>

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## Project REX Hangouts

FREE weekly Hangouts will be held at MUSC IOP, 5 South, 67 President Street, Charleston, each Thursday beginning June 8 and continuing through Aug. 10 from 4 - 5:30 PM. Hangouts are a place to socialize, play games, & take part in fun activities with their peers. Ages 11+ are welcome to join this open-house style event. (Parents can come and socialize in an adjacent room.) Staff will be present to supervise, but no food will be served. For more information: <https://www.projectrex.org/2017/05/autism-adhd-social-skills-groups/>



## SC Legislation to Protect the Rights of Parents with Disabilities

On May 11, 2017, Governor Henry McMaster signed House Bill 3538 which amended South Carolina Code to add a new chapter, the "Persons with Disabilities Right to Parent Act". Able SC (Center for Independent Living), Department of Social Services (DSS), SC Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities (SCP&A), and others, partnered to draft a bill which codified best practices for ensuring the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities. The Bill was sponsored by Representative James Smith and Senator Katrina Shealy, and supported by the General Assembly, Able SC, DSS, SCP&A, the SC Developmental Disabilities Council, American Bar Association, Disabled Parenting Project, National Council on Disability, Through the Looking Glass, and the many parents with disabilities who shared their stories and provided testimony.

The law requires DSS, law enforcement, and the family and probate courts, among others, to protect the parenting rights of people with disabilities by establishing requirements and safeguards applicable in child custody, child protection and probate guardianship proceedings to ensure that persons with disabilities are not denied the right to parent or to have custody of or visitation with a child because of a disability; and to prohibit child placing agencies and adoption service providers from denying persons with a disability the right to access services because of the person's disability. Additionally, the law prohibits termination of parental rights solely on the basis of a disability. Prior to this law passing, South Carolina had legislation allowing disability as the sole grounds for removing and terminating parent rights, even without evidence of abuse or neglect.

To read the full Bill visit: [http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122\\_2017-2018/bills/3538.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess122_2017-2018/bills/3538.htm)

## What Is Williams Syndrome - *Continued*

and endearing. Parents often say the joy and perspective a child with WS brings into their lives had been unimaginable.

But there are major struggles as well. Many babies have life-threatening cardiovascular problems. Children with WS need costly and ongoing medical care and early interventions (such as speech or occupational therapy). As they grow, they struggle with things like spatial relations, numbers, and abstract reasoning, which can make daily tasks a challenge. As adults, most people with Williams syndrome will need many supports to live to their fullest potential.

Opportunities for social interaction are important. As people with WS mature – beyond the structure of school and family activities – they often experience intense isolation which can lead to depression. They are extremely sociable and experience the normal need to connect with others; however they often don't process nuanced social cues making it difficult to form lasting relationships.

WS affects 1 in 10,000 people worldwide – an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people in the United States. It is known to occur equally in both males and females and in every culture. For more information visit: <https://williams-syndrome.org/>

*A different disability will be highlighted in the next Coalition.*

**Exceptional Parent Magazine** provides practical advice, emotional support, and the most up-to-date educational information for families of children and adults with disabilities and special healthcare needs. Be sure to check out their 2017 Resource Issue. You can read it and other issues on line at: <http://reader.mediawiremobile.com/epmagazine/titles/100501>



## Remembering "Family" Friends

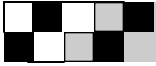
We at the Family Resource Center were saddened to learn of the death of Chelsea Davis Mikel on April 26. Chelsea was a devoted parent to two young children and a staunch advocate for all children with disabilities. She was one of our Parent Mentors who shared her knowledge and kind spirit with families as they navigated the school system. Chelsea's goal was to help families of children with disabilities and she met that goal many times over. We'll miss you Chelsea...

We also are thinking of Beverly Ferry who passed away in April. Beverly was the mom of long-time FRC staff Lisa Riddle. In addition to being a terrific support for Lisa and her family, Beverly also helped with other children as she worked in the classrooms in Dorchester District 2.



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## Los Estudiantes Aprendices Del Inglés

Los distritos escolares tienen que contar con procedimientos para identificar de forma precisa y oportuna a los estudiantes potenciales aprendices del inglés. Durante el período de inscripción, la mayoría de los distritos escolares usan una encuesta sobre el idioma que se habla en el hogar con el fin de reunir información sobre los antecedentes de los idiomas del estudiante. Esta encuesta también ayuda a identificar a los estudiantes cuyo idioma primario o cuyo idioma que se habla en el hogar no es el inglés.

A continuación, los distritos escolares tienen que determinar si los estudiantes potenciales aprendices del inglés son en realidad aprendices del inglés a través de una prueba válida y confiable que evalúa el dominio del idioma inglés sobre el habla, escucha, lectura y escritura.

Los estudiantes aprendices del inglés tienen derecho a recibir servicios apropiados de apoyo a idiomas para permitir a los estudiantes aprendices del inglés que logren dominar el inglés y que participen por igual en el programa educacional estándar dentro de un período de tiempo razonable.

Los distritos escolares pueden elegir entre programas diseñados para educar a los estudiantes aprendices del inglés siempre y cuando el programa educativo sea profundo en teoría y efectivo en la práctica.

Los estudiantes aprendices del inglés tienen derecho a programas para estudiantes aprendices del inglés con recursos suficientes para garantizar la implementación eficaz de los programas, incluyendo docentes altamente calificados, personal de apoyo y material didáctico apropiado.

Los distritos escolares tienen que contar con docentes, personal y administradores calificados para implementar eficazmente su programa para estudiantes aprendices del inglés, y tienen que proporcionar capacitación suplementaria cuando sea necesario.

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-el-students-201501-sp.pdf>