

“POWER TO THE PARENTS” WORKSHOPS

The “Power to the Parents” series includes:

#1 -Learning the Language of Special Education:

This fun and interactive workshop covers of the various acronyms used in special education and IDEA. The acronyms are covered in linear fashion, starting with the initial evaluation process and moving through qualifying for special education and components of the Individualized Education Plan (“IEP”).

#2 -Walkthrough Sections of the IEP:

This is a favorite workshop of attendees and includes a section-by-section review of the IEP, helping parents become familiar with the components and purpose of each section. The session also covers SMART goals and the types of specialized services or instruction that may be included on the IEP.

#3 -Behavior and Social / Emotional Supports:

This workshop covers how specially designed instruction can include supports for student behavior and supports for social and emotional well-being. The workshop will include review of a sample behavior plan and sample goals addressing behavior issues and social and emotional growth.

#4 -Negotiation Tips and IEP Team Building:

This workshop is another favorite among attendees. Parents learn several core strategies for long term success in negotiating services and supports on an IEP. Team building is also introduced, along with practical advice on raising concerns and addressing disagreements effectively and productively.

#5 -Progress Reports, Data-Driven Goals and Recovery Services:

This workshop focuses on measuring progress on SMART goals, including determining a baseline for getting started and measuring progress throughout the school year. This session will help parents understand how to read and understand progress reports on IEP goals in order to gauge the growth (or lack thereof) of the student. This workshop also discusses tools for initial evaluation and re-evaluation, as well as how the tools help evaluate the need for recovery services, ESY or compensatory education.

#6 -Transition (to Adulthood) Planning on the IEP:

This workshop focuses on Section 5 of the IEP titled “Postsecondary Transition.” This section is required for students ages 14+ and requires the IEP Team to add post-graduation related goals to the IEP. This workshop will discuss transition-related assessments, as well as goals for career exploration, competitive integrated employment and independent living.

#7 -Procedural Rights and Dispute Resolution:

This workshop focuses on parent procedural rights under IDEA and Section 504. Parents will learn about their right to informed consent and other procedural safeguards. This workshop also outlines how to request and use various free and powerful advocacy tools available through the Department of Education, including meeting facilitation, mediation, and the request for a due process hearing.