

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services
people who help people



Improving Academic Achievement



Bill Ritter, Jr.
Governor

Karen L. Beye
CDHS Executive Director

Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner of Education

To: Special Education Directors
County Directors, Child Welfare Administrators and Managers, Supervisors, Foster Care Coordinators, Resource/Certification Workers, and All Other Caseworkers

From: Colorado Department of Education,
Colorado Department of Human Services

Re: Guidance regarding implementation of HB-09-1078 regarding making Individualized Education Program (IEP) training available to foster parents.

Date: January 27, 2010

Background:

About 11 percent of the general student population require special education services. Nationally it is estimated that there is a much higher rate of need for special education services among children and youth who are in out-of-home care. Foster parents are expected to participate in the educational planning for the children and youth in their care. In order to be effective advocates, foster parents need to understand the IEP process.

The Colorado General Assembly passed, HB-09-1078, which requires coordination between county departments of human/social services and local school districts and/or Administrative Units in order to make IEP training available upon request by a foster parent. An Administrative Unit is responsible for the local administration of special education and may be the school district, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), or the Charter School Institute (CSI).

Action to Be Taken:

County departments of human/social services and local school districts, and/or Administrative Units are required to coordinate in order to make training about Individualized Education Programs available to foster parents upon their request.

Existing resources may be used. For example:

- The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the PEAK Parent Center co-train “Key Ingredients for Effective IEPs” statewide. Information and the training schedule are available on their respective websites.

- Some school districts or BOCES provide educational surrogate training, which includes information about the IEP process.
- CDE is producing a brief video depicting the IEP process. Copies of the DVD will be distributed to each Administrative Unit, departments of human/social services and will also be posted on the CDE webpage.
- A limited supply of copies of The Everyday Guide to Special Education Law are available for participants in the foster parent and caseworker/supervisor training regarding advocating for the educational success of children and youth in out-of-home care. The training is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Human Services. The copies are available in English and Spanish language versions.

Below are a few examples of possible resources, however it is not an exhaustive list.

Sample Resources:

- www.peakparent.org/workshopsTrainings.asp
- <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp>
- <http://www.thelegalcenter.org/>
- The Everyday Guide to Special Education Law (see above)
- <https://www.abanet.org/child/home.html>
- Learning Curves, Education Advocacy for Children in Foster Care-American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law (see previous bullet)

Effective Date:

Upon Receipt

Supersedes:

NA

Contacts:

Adena Miller, Senior Consultant
 RtI/PBS Unit Colorado Department of Education
 Telephone: 303-866-6698 or Email: Miller_A@cde.state.co.us

Mary Griffin, Program Administrator for Foster Care and Kinship Foster Care
 Division of Child Welfare Services
 Colorado Department of Human Services
 Telephone: 303-866-3546 or Email: mary.griffin@state.co.us