



An initiative of CUSD200, SEA200 and ISBE.

SUMMARY

The main objective of the Parent & Educator Partnership is to provide support, training, resource information and ongoing technical assistance to parents and school district personnel related to the referral, identification and educational services for students with special needs.

Parents can get information or assistance from the Parent Mentor by making a phone call or sending an email. All contacts with the Parent Mentor are confidential.

About the Parent Mentor Grant

The Parent and Educator Partnership is an initiative of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and was modeled after the Ohio Parent Mentor Project (OPMP). The OPMP has demonstrated success for ten years by providing support to parents of children with disabilities by building equal partnerships with the educators who serve their children. The primary goal of this initiative is to move families and educators from a relationship which has been traditionally adversarial to one that enhances partnership. Working together to meet the needs of children provides more opportunities for educational success.

This program represents a partnership between our school district, the ISBE and SEA200, an independent, not-for-profit organization for families of children with special needs in our community. We are one of only 11 grant site locations in the state who were awarded this grant.

Funds for this program are provided through the Illinois State Board of Education. 100% of the funds are from federal sources.

WHY A PARENT MENTOR?

Students have better outcomes when home and school work together. The role of a Parent Mentor is to empower parents to fully participate as a partner in their child's education. Mentors neither represent nor speak for the parents or the school district. The Mentor assists parents and staff in creating a cooperative partnership focused on the needs of the student.

A Parent Mentor is available to:

- Attend IEP meetings as requested
- Promote the growth of the SEA200 parent group
- Provide parents and school personnel resource information
- Host workshops for parents, school personnel and community members
- Assist parents in learning about the special education process (forms, IEP, evaluations, parent's rights, etc).

Parent Mentors receive training in a range of areas including:

- Policies and Procedures
- Community Resources
- Individualized Educational Program (IEP) process
- Procedural Safeguards - Special Education Law.

Local Contact Information:

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Parent Mentor

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