

Facilitating an Educational Benefit Review Process: A Forum for Training of Trainers

The intent of a "free appropriate public education" for individuals with disabilities is to design individualized instruction with sufficient supports and services to enable the student to achieve educational benefit. To determine if an IEP is appropriate, the decision in Board of Education of the Hendrick Hudson School District v. Rowley, 458 U.S. 176 (1982) had defined a two-pronged test: *Does the IEP meet procedural compliance? Was the IEP reasonably calculated to promote educational benefit?*

The *Educational Benefit Review Process* was developed by the California State Department of Education to answer those questions and determine if the design of an IEP is reasonably calculated in order for the student to achieve educational benefit (*Evaluation of California Educational Benefit Review Process: Summary of Focused Groups, 2004*). Connecticut is now also utilizing this process to support districts in their efforts to promote responsible inclusive practices.

In collaboration with the CT State Department of Education, SERC is offering this professional development opportunity to **district teams intending to become trainers of the Educational Benefit Review Process**. This session will provide a team of district facilitators with the skills needed to support colleagues in using this process district-wide. The facilitated case study approach requires districts to bring a three-year cycle of IEPs and supporting documentation for a specific student. Districts should select records of students who have been in the district for three or more years. Selected student files should also be a general representation of the kinds of IEPs that the district develops.

Participants in this professional development activity will:

- describe what constitutes "educational benefit" for a student;
- determine if the design of a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) was reasonably calculated in order to increase the likelihood of the student obtaining educational benefit; and
- ascertain how the *Educational Benefit Review Process* can be utilized with staff within a district or school to reflect on the quality of the IEP development in order to increase student access, participation, and progress in the general education curriculum.

Required Preparation:

Team members participating in the session must bring IEPs on a specific student for a three-year period with identifying information removed.

Date, Time, Location:

Session A:
Wednesday, October 10, 2007

or

Session B:
Wednesday, February 13, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell

Facilitators:

SERC Consultants

Audience: Grades K-12

Maximum of ten (10) teams, composed of 3 to 5 members. Each team **must** include an administrator, a general educator, and a special educator, and may include student support services professionals or additional educators.

CEUs: .7

Includes:
Full Attendance
Post-Activity Application of Learning

Registration Fee

\$150.00 per team
Payable to Rensselaer at Hartford
Payment is due prior to the session upon confirmation of participation.

Questions/ Special Needs

Contact: Nikki Hendry
Education Services Specialist
(860) 632-1485, ext. 255

Register By:

Session A:
Friday, September 28, 2007
Session B:
Friday, January 25, 2008



www.ctserc.org



Least Restrictive Environment / Inclusion Initiative

Please return application to SERC, **Least Restrictive Environment/Inclusion Initiative**, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1520. Participants will be selected on a first come, first served basis with regional consideration. Applicants will receive written confirmation regarding participation shortly after the registration closing date. The registration fee is payable upon notice of acceptance.

(Please see next page for application.)

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Application Form

District/Region _____	School/Program _____
Contact Person _____	Work Phone () _____
<small>(If also team member, please also complete below.)</small>	
Email (Please Print.) _____	Fax () _____

(Please Print Clearly.)

District Administrator _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

If different from contact person: School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

General Educator _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

If different from contact person: School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

Special Educator _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

If different from contact person: School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

Team Member 4 _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

If different from contact person: School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

Team Member 5 _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Position/Role _____ Grade Level _____ Email (Please Print.) _____

If different from contact person: School/Program _____ Work Phone () _____

Release time is approved for educators: Administrator's Signature is required: _____

Please return completed application form by registration deadline to:

SERC

LRE/Inclusion Initiative

25 Industrial Park Road

Middletown, CT 06457-1520

Fax: (860) 632-8870 • email: hendry@ctserc.org



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