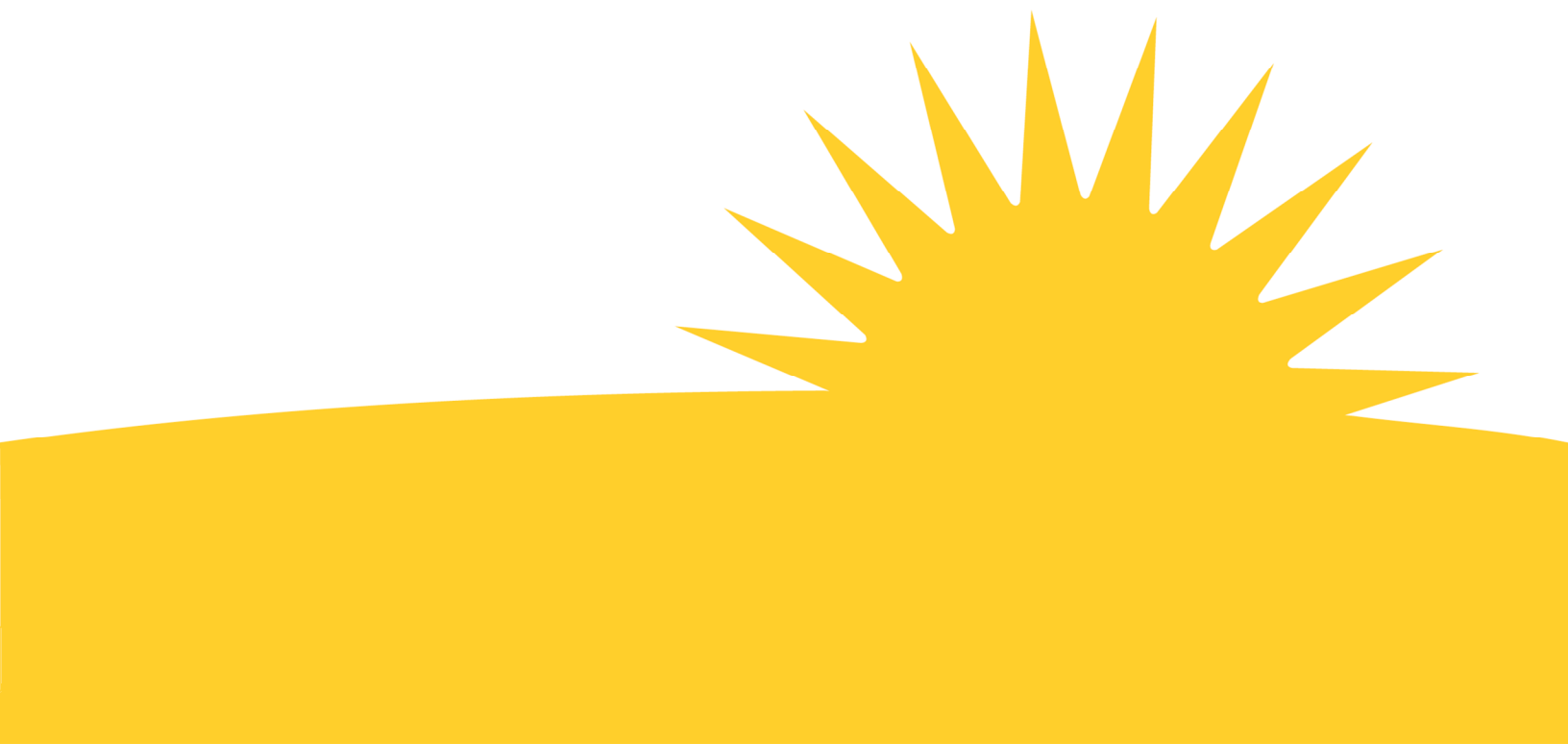




Parent Centered Course Offerings



Introduction

The staff of Futures Education is most pleased to present this description of our parent outreach and education offerings. We present the courses with respect to Parent Outreach Sessions and Sessions Building Staff Capacity; the former is designed for parents and the latter is for district staff in order to increase their ability to effectively educate parents. Both categories are interrelated in that they are designed to promote parent understanding of, and participation in, the process of their child's education.

Parent Outreach Sessions

PA100 PARENT ORIENTATION AND AWARENESS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES

Course Description:

This experience is designed to provide parents with information about the special education and related services including: process, requirements, expectations, and other general information to promote comfort and better understanding of the benefits and legal limitations of special education and related services.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA101 UNDERSTANDING LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Course Description:

The provision of special education instruction and services in the least restrictive environment (LRE) is a fundamental principle required by federal and state laws. This offering will provide parents with an overview of the concept of LRE to guide the development of IEPs as well as strategies for implementing LRE within school systems, schools, and classrooms.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA102 FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION – FAPE

Course Description:

The focus of this professional development experience will be to define, for parents, the concept of FAPE and explain the implications of this essential principle that guides much of the special education process. Parents will be provided with a comprehensive overview of what constitutes FAPE as well as effective strategies for ensuring that students are provided with a Free Appropriate Public Education.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.



PA103 THE CONCEPT OF EDUCATIONAL BENEFIT IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Course Description:

This professional development experience will present parents an overview of “educational benefit” as a basic requirement for special education services to students. This standard is applied to the educational programs and services provided to students with disabilities to establish that FAPE is being provided. The legal and practical aspects of “educational benefit” will be explained to parents in the context of instructional and related services.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA104 SPECIAL EDUCATION ELIGIBILITY AND EXIT CRITERIA

Course Description:

This professional development opportunity will address a broad range of issues related to the proper identification and classification of students for special education. The program will highlight assessment practices, regulatory criteria for identification as well as best practices for referral and assessment.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA105 A PRIMER ON SPECIAL EDUCATION DISABILITIES – INCLUDING LOW INCIDENCE DISABILITIES

Course Description:

This session focuses on an overview of eligibility categories of educational disabilities low incidence disabilities; parent/guardian information sessions on the availability of city, state and community resources; and strategies for specific disabilities including but not limited to assistive technology and alternative assessments; provide ongoing coaching, training and targeted PD in response to needs assessment.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA106 UNDERSTANDING THE FAMILY RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FRPA) CONFIDENTIALITY

Course Description:

This professional development experience will familiarize parents with the requirements of the federal Family Rights and Privacy Act (FRPA). This act impacts a multitude of confidentiality issues related to student records and other privacy issues. This knowledge base is essential for all educators and school personnel.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA107 BILINGUAL SPECIAL EDUCATION

Course Description:

This professional development experience will focus upon an instructional system that involves the teaching of cognitive skills and the development of language skills while targeting the acquisition of English; provide personalized in-school follow up that supports the student’s needs; support schools, networks or organizations in planning and implementing parent workshops based on parent surveys and needs; provide ongoing training focusing on academic achievement while including native language arts issues and language acquisition strategies; provide assistance on how to distinguish between language acquisition and learning and/or speech and language disabilities.

Duration and Schedule:

2 sessions of 2 hours in duration.

PA108 ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Course Description:

This presentation will provide parents an overview of the spectrum of assistive technology devices, service requirements, using the technology in class and expected outcomes; details on how teachers use the technology in the classroom; range of devices available that includes low, medium and high tech; assist parents in using devices at home to aid students.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA109 BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM

Course Description:

This course will provide information, workshops and training on positive behavior support and interventions for us in the classroom. The presentation will reference research and/or evidence based programs geared to a spectrum of behavior issues and age ranges. Parents will learn various strategies and interventions for promoting positive student behavior and diminishing problematic behaviors and how parents may help with these skills at home.

Duration and Schedule:

3 sessions of 2 hours in duration.

PA110 RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (PRE-REFERRAL INTERVENTIONS)

Course Description:

This professional development experience will address an overview of Response to Intervention as a general education strategy to meet the educational needs of students thereby minimizing the need for special education referral. The program will assist parents' understanding of: (1) the process and framework to screen and identify students for additional instruction, including progress monitoring as well as program effectiveness; (2) instruction using research based programs to increase academic achievement; (3) customization of instruction for specific personnel, grades or subject areas in each tier and ensure that school based personnel are effectively utilizing a range of student data to identify and implement best practices; and (4) levels of ongoing support to ensure the successful implementation of Response to Intervention.

Duration and Schedule:

2 sessions of 2 hours in duration.

PA111 UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Course Description:

This presentation will provide an overview of and information pertaining to Autism Spectrum Disorders. It will assist in creating, in partnership with parents, a school culture that includes instructional strategies, best practices, onsite training, coaching and feedback that will allow the autism spectrum to remain in their Least Restrictive Environment. An integral aspect of this offering is parent workshops for transition of students on the autism spectrum.

Duration and Schedule:

3 sessions of 2 hours in duration.

PA112 INSTRUCTIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Course Description:

This professional development experience is designed to familiarize parents with an fundamental understanding of skills necessary to adjust general education and/or special education instructional delivery / teaching strategies and practices to meet the diverse needs of students with varied learning styles and needs, disabilities, and other attributes that impact the ability to benefits from the educational experience.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA113 TRANSITION PLANNING

Course Description:

This course will provide parents with information necessary to understand and effectively develop transition plans for students within the IEP as required by state and federal regulations. The transition from school to work or school to other post-secondary educational or life situations targets school and community based options as well as integrating other non-school service providers. This course can be adjusted for varied audiences.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA114 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY)

Course Description:

The availability of an Extended School Year for students with disabilities who require this service is prescribed by federal and state regulations. This seminar will provide parents guidance and information related to the requirements and conditions under which ESY should be provided.

Intended Audience:

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA115 HOMEWORK: PRINCIPLES, THEORIES, AND APPLICATION

Course Description:

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process for all learners. Teachers, schools, and districts often have prescribed practices or policies addressing homework. However, the amount, purpose and value of homework is often a hotly debated topic. This seminar will familiarize parents with various perspectives on homework and specifically consider the implications for special education.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA116 RETENTION AT GRADE LEVEL

Course Description:

This professional development experience will help parents understand the issue of grade level retention of students. Retention is a hotly debated topic with a wide variation of opinion. Parents will be exposed to a variety of thoughts and practices related to retention as well as the benefits and consequences of not promoting a student to the next grade with his/her age appropriate peers. Alternatives to retention will also be explored.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA117 SELF-ADVOCACY IN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Course Description:

This seminar will address the concept of self-advocacy for parents of students with disabilities. One of the more prominent considerations when prioritizing skills for students is self-advocacy. This is particularly prevalent in the realm of special education since students with disabilities may not have developed the skills necessary to express their preferences, needs aspirations, and to explain their unique circumstances.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.



Sessions Building Staff Capacity

PA118 COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Course Description:

This presentation is designed to assist school personnel in communicating and working with special education parent advisory councils and special education parent organizations.

Intended Audience:

School district personnel

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA119 CUSTOMER SERVICE – HOW SCHOOLS CAN BE USER FRIENDLY

Course Description:

Schools and school programs sometimes forget the benefits of customer service. Special education programs often deal with parents and others in circumstances where emotions run high and the technical processes make it difficult to be sensitive to individual needs. Parents will be familiarized with customer service from answering the phone to interaction with the general public. This seminar will address the topic of Customer Service and is recommended for professional personnel as well as school office staff.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA120 PROMOTING BETTER SCHOOL-PARENT PARTNERSHIPS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Description:

This presentation focuses on the development of positive strategies for parents and school personnel to work collaboratively and in harmony with regard to special education issues. Attention will be directed to establishing productive interactions that promote the well-being and success of students and avoiding the pitfalls of adversarial situations through mutual understanding, respect, and dignity.

Duration and Schedule:

1 session of 2 hours in duration.

PA121 SYMPOSIUM ON EFFECTIVE PARENT SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

This interactive program, which is facilitated by professional staff, provides an opportunity for parents and school personnel to discuss and dialogue on varied topics targeted toward establishing a positive and productive relationship between stakeholders related to parent-school interactions. Parents will work cooperatively to promote mutual understanding of needs, preferences, limitations, etc. and to develop specific action plans for school district personnel and parents to implement.

Intended Audience:

School district Personnel
Parents

Duration and schedule:

Multiple sessions of 2 hours in duration.



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