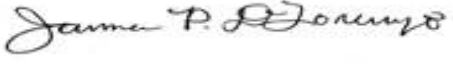


**The State Education Department
The University of the State of New York**

March 2009

Available in [PDF Format](#) for Printing

TO:	District Superintendents
	Superintendents of Schools
	Presidents of Boards of Education
	Superintendents of State-Operated and State-Supported Schools
	Executive Directors of Approved Private Schools
	New York City Board of Education
	Organizations, Parents and Individuals Concerned with Special Education
	Commissioner's Advisory Panel for Special Education Services
	SETRC Professional Development Specialists
	Regional School Support Centers
	Impartial Hearing Officers
	Mediators
	Other State Agencies
FROM:	James P. DeLorenzo 
SUBJECT:	Special Education Parent Centers

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) announces the addition of eleven (11) new Special Education Parent Technical Assistance Centers (TACs) across New York State (NYS), including five (5) centers in New York City (one per borough) and six (6) additional centers throughout the upstate region. The existing Special Education Parent TACs on Long Island and Western New York will continue, resulting in the operation of thirteen (13) Special Education Parent Centers in NYS. The centers will contribute to the implementation of the NYS Board of Regents Policy on Improving Student Achievement and School Performance through Parent and Family Partnerships.

The Special Education Parent Centers will provide parents of children with disabilities with information, resources, and strategies to:

- promote their meaningful involvement in their children's education programs, including information regarding the special education process (referrals,

- individual evaluations and individualized education program development and transition planning);
- assist in understanding their children's disabilities;
 - promote early resolution of disputes between parents and school districts;
 - promote the use of resolution sessions and special education mediation;
 - assist in understanding procedural due process rights, including the right to impartial hearings and appeals and the State complaint process; and
 - enhance parents' skills and levels of confidence to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other schools and other stakeholders to advocate and actively participate in their children's education program.

In order to promote the development of effective parental and family engagement statewide, the Parent Centers will:

- collaborate with public school districts on methods to facilitate positive parent involvement as a means of improving special education services and results for children with disabilities;
- improve parent participation in the survey process to measure the percent of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities; and
- assist NYSED to identify and promote effective practices for positive parental involvement in the special education process.

The contact information for the Parent Centers is attached and will also be posted on our website at <http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/parentcenters.htm> or you may contact our office at (518) 473-2878.

To ensure dissemination to appropriate individuals within a school district, I ask Superintendents to please share this memorandum with individuals such as Directors of Special Education, School Psychologists, Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) Chairpersons, Guidance Counselors, Directors of Pupil Personnel and Parent Teacher Associations.

**Please note: If you would like to receive notification of our publications via e-mail, register at www.vesid.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/register.htm*

Attachment

New York State Special Education Parent Centers

Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled
27 Smith Street, Suite 200,

Resources for Children with Special Needs, Inc
The Manhattan Parent Center Without

Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-998-3000
718-998-3743 Fax
Contact person: Marvin Wasserman,
Executive Director

Region served: NYC - Brooklyn

**Parent to Parent NY, Inc.
The Research Foundation for Mental
Hygiene**

1050 Forest Hill Road
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718) 494-4872
718-494-0319 Fax
Contact person: Joseph J. Matori- Deputy
Director

Region served: NYC - Staten Island

United We Stand of New York, LTD

Mail to: 91 Harrison Ave
Location: 98 Moore Street
Brooklyn NY 11206
718-302-4313
718-302-4315 Fax
Contact person: Lourdes Rivera-Putz,
Executive Director

Region served: NYC - Queens

**Center on Human Policy, Law, and
Disability Studies
Syracuse University**

805 S. Crouse Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13244
315-443-3851
315-443-9361 Fax
Contact person: Steven J. Taylor, PhD,
Centennial Professor
Patricia Lowney, Ph.D, Executive Director

Walls
116 E. 16th Street, 5th floor
New York, New York 10003
212-677-4650
212-254-4070 Fax
Contact person: Rachel Howard, Executive
Director

Region served: NYC – Manhattan

**Resources for Children with Special
Needs, Inc**

The Bronx Parent Center Without Walls
116 E. 16th Street, 5th floor
New York, New York 10003
212-677-4650
212-254-4070 Fax
Contact person: Rachel Howard, Executive
Director

Region served: NYC - Bronx

Family Resource Network, Inc.

46 Oneida Street
Oneonta, NY 13820
607-432-0001
607-432-5516 Fax
Contact person: Pamela J. Larsen

Region served: Southern Region

Covers the following BOCES:

Broome-Delaware Tioga;
Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego;
Otsego-Northern Catskills;
Greater Southern Tier

**Northern Regional Center for
Independent Living, Inc**

210 Court Street, Suite 107
Watertown, NY 13601
315-785-8703
315-785-8612 Fax
Contact person: Brenda S. Company,
Executive Director

Region served: North Country

Region served: Mid-State

Covers the following BOCES:
Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego;
Madison-Oneida;
Oneida-Herkimer-Madison;
Oswego County;
Onondaga-Cortland-Madison;
Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga;
Cayuga-Onondaga and
Syracuse City

The Westchester Institute for Human Development

Cedarwood Hall, Room 326
Valhalla, NY 10595
914-493-8204
914-493-7899 Fax
Contact person: Ansley Bacon, PhD,
President and CEO

Region served: Hudson Valley

Covers the following BOCES:
Dutchess;
Orange-Ulster;
Putnam-Northern Westchester;
Rockland;
Southern Westchester;
Sullivan;
Ulster and
Yonkers City

Wildwood Programs Inc.

Parent Network of the Capital Region
1190 Troy Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110
518-640-3368
518-640-3401 Fax
Contact person: Liz DeLibero, Project
Coordinator

Region served: Eastern

Covers the following BOCES:
Capital Region;
Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery;
Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-

Covers the following BOCES:
Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington;
Franklin-Essex-Hamilton;
St. Lawrence-Lewis;
Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-
Oneida

The Advocacy Center, Inc.

590 South Ave
Rochester, NY 14620
1-800-650-4967
585-546-1700
585-546-7069 Fax
Contact person: Paul J. Shew, Executive
Director

Region served: Mid-West

Covers the following BOCES:
Genesee Valley;
Monroe 1;
Monroe 2 –Orleans;
Ontario-Seneca-Yates-Cayuga-Wayne; and
Rochester City

Essex;
Questar III

Current Parent Centers

**The Long Island Parent and Family
Technical Assistance Center/Just Kids**

887 Kellum St
Lindenhurst, NY 11787
631-603-3300 Main number
631-603-3303 Fax
1-800-432-0199 Toll free

Contact:

Elizabeth DeFazio-Rodriguez - Program
Coordinator erdr12@optonline.net
Steven Held - Executive Director of Just
Kids Early Learning Center, Inc.
Dr. Ginny Barry- Project Administrator

Parent Network of Western New York

1000 Main St
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-332-4170 Main number
716-332-4171 Fax
716-332-4175 Information and referral
Contact: Susan Barlow - Executive Director

srb@parentnetworkwny.org

www.parentnet