

Our Beliefs . . .

- ◆ With encouragement and support from educators and community providers, each family determines their level of participation in system processes.
- ◆ In successful partnerships, families, educators, and community providers work together by recognizing, understanding, and respecting individual differences, cultural backgrounds, and differing approaches, and seek solutions.
- ◆ Two-way frequent and meaningful communication builds successful partnerships.
- ◆ Building partnerships among families, educators, and community providers as early as possible enhances the degree of family and child success.
- ◆ Families, educators, and community providers all have important roles, responsibilities, and perspectives in the education and support of children.

Our Mission . . .

The Parent-Educator Connection works to develop and sustain effective partnerships between families, educators, and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.

Iowa Department of Education

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Families, schools, and communities
in Iowa working together to
promote educational success for
children and youth.

Who Are We?

What Can We Do for Parents and Educators?

The Partnership

- ◆ The Parent-Educator Connection (PEC), started in 1984, provides a unique opportunity for parents and educators to build partnerships to improve educational programs for children and young adults with special needs.
- ◆ Modeling an effective collaborative partnership, the PEC is staffed by a parent coordinator who brings the perspective of a parent with a child having special needs and an educator coordinator who brings the perspective of an educator.
- ◆ Each of the 11 state Area Education Agencies (AEA's) have a parent and an educator coordinator on staff to direct the program within the AEA. They deal directly with parents, local education agencies, and agencies outside the educational system.
- ◆ The Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services employs a parent coordinator who partners with educators at the department in order to provide assistance to AEAs and the children and families of Iowa.

- ◆ Link families and educators with needed services and resources.
- ◆ Assist parent-educator support groups.
- ◆ Conduct workshops on various subjects for families and educators.
- ◆ Provide books, pamphlets and video/audio tapes on issues regarding special education, parenting and disabilities.
- ◆ Network with other agencies and programs who work with parents and educators.
- ◆ Connect families and educators with similar needs and interests.
- ◆ Inform and encourage state and local educational groups to support home-school relationships.

Who can get involved. . .

- ◆ Families with children who have special learning needs, ages birth to twenty-one, can work with the PEC to build important relationships.
- ◆ Educators and other individuals who work with children with special needs may also access the PEC as a resource or volunteer to work with the PEC in supporting services.

How to get involved . . .

For more information or to find out how to contact the coordinators in your AEA, contact:

The Iowa Department of Education
Bureau of Children, Family and Community Services
Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
(515) 242-5295
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