

SEK INTERLOCAL#637

July 17, 2015

Welcome back! A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings. . . . new staff, new kids, new ways of helping kids. Summer vacations can be great healers and as we approach the opening day of school the end-of-year pressures that plagued us in May seem quite remote! The beginning of a school year is a unique opportunity. It gives us the chance to make new plans and strategies, and implement new ideas. There is a special kind of joy and satisfaction in planning for the upcoming year. There is always room for improvement and for new ways to do a good job even better.

One of the most noticeable changes you will experience this year is the updated IEP. After completing the state file review last year, we found some repeated compliance concerns. To address these compliance concerns, an updated IEP was created by our staff to make it more user friendly. There will also be better safeguards provided by the software as IEP's are written. A team of highly skilled and dedicated staff made the upgrades to the IEP. There will be multiple in-services regarding the format changes before and after school begins. Plans are underway for an early Fall follow-up by regions to support and review the new IEP format.

We want to welcome some new faces to the SEK 637 staff. We are delighted to have the educators listed below:

James Cameron – USD 250 Middle School inclusion/resource
Erin Esaw – USD 250 Meadowlark Elementary inclusion/resource
Christa Scritchfield – USD 404 low incident Elementary
C.J. August – USD 404 low incident High School
Emily Hendrix – USD 247 Speech Therapist
Jennifer Mallory – USD 247, 404, 493, 499, 508 Social Worker
Michelle Gregory - USD 506 Preschool Edna Elementary
Eileen Pierson – USD 246 Elementary inclusion/resource
Jill Stanley – USD 250 High School inclusion/resource
Melissa Kinney – USD 250 low incident High School

File review is a great way to look at strengths and weaknesses of the compliance of our IEPs. Much has been learned through the file review process in the 2014-15 school year. This process has always been on a 5 year cycle and has included all 13 districts. KSDE has now chosen to have 3-4 districts in file review each year. This means that the Interlocal will be in file review every year. This process is intensive and requires attention to detail and vigilant support to correct files. Chris Ratzlaff, a current school psychologist for the Interlocal will coordinate the yearly file review process in addition to his school psych assignment.

With the continued lack of state financial support to education, it's a challenge to make the Interlocal budget balance. We have been in deficit spending for several years. This year, the Interlocal's 2014-15 budget ended at a zero deficit! You may wonder how that was possible. The game changer was strong revenues from medicaid billing by our related service staff. Please give these folks a pat on the back!

I'm very proud of our agency! We provide a great service to academic and behaviorally challenged children. We have an outstanding student-centered Board of Education. They understand your work and appreciate you. Our offices and administrative staff will continue to focus on how to best serve you . . . allowing you to accomplish important tasks . . . working with kids and their families! Together we have an important and beautiful mission!

I'm looking forward to a new and productive year!



There are several dates for you to place on your calendar.
Location for all meetings will be at the Interlocal office in Pittsburg.

August 6th – (9am- Noon) New staff orientation

August 13th – (8:30am – noon) In-service regarding **Webkidds updates**
Attendees: Psychs (required), voluntary for all other staff who choose to attend if they have IEP's immediately due.

August 18th – (9am- Noon) In-service regarding **Webkidds updates**
Attendees: New staff (required), voluntary for all other staff who choose to attend if they have IEP's immediately due.

August 27th – (9 AM – noon) Staff in-service (required attendance),
Attendees: Related Service, Gifted, and Early Childhood.
Department meetings arranged by the department chair for the afternoon.

August 27th – (12:30 PM – 3:30 PM) Staff in-service (required attendance)
Attendees: Elementary K-6 inclusion / resource teachers

August 28th – (9 AM – Noon) Staff in-service (required attendance)
Attendees: Grades 7-12 inclusion / resource teachers