

# SPED NEWS

Parent and Staff  
Edition



May 2006

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[www.slc.sevier.org](http://www.slc.sevier.org)

## Parent Advisory Committee

The Sevier County Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) has three volunteers available to serve as individual education plan (IEP) meeting parent advocates. The PAC hopes that, especially for the parents of newly diagnosed students, having an experienced parent to talk to ahead of time about what will happen at the IEP meeting will be useful. This advocate could also attend the IEP meeting and provide whatever assistance the parent might need (from finding the meeting

*continued next column*

## Directors MEMO

As the year closes, I want to thank everyone for the great efforts put forth on behalf of the Sevier County children with special needs. I first want to remember and honor Beverly Hoyt, who passed away on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> of this year. She was a resource teacher at Northview Elementary and will be sadly missed by all. We also want to remember Bill Smith, Supervisor of Special Projects, who passed away in 2005. Bill was a parent with a child served in special education and always a friend and supporter of our program.

This year has been a tremendous year for collaboration and inclusion. I want to highlight the success many schools have had as they initiated inclusive programs. I believe they would all tell you that it was a challenge but the benefits to the students and in staff collaboration have been worth all the effort. Mr. Joe Fisher, Assistant Commissioner for Special Education, visited and as a result, Sevier County Schools received recognition for these Inclusion Programs. New Center School received state recognition for their tremendous effort in Closing the Achievement Gap with their students with disabilities. And to top it all off, Lana Seivers, our Commissioner of Education came to Sevier County to film the television ads for special education teacher recruitment. Thanks again for a great year and enjoy your summer!!!

location to translating special education jargon). Another time it may be helpful to have a parent advocate is when your child is moving from one school to another, or from school to adult life. Of course, the staff members for the current school and the new school will be at the IEP meeting, but the parent of an older student could help you figure out what questions to ask.

Kathy Dufau, Megan Duhon, and Brian Sims are the first three volunteers. If you would like to talk to one of them before your child's next IEP meeting or school transition, call Jeff Romanczuk in the Special Education Department (453-1036) and he will give you their contact information. Anyone else interested in being a parent advocate should contact Jeff by e-mail, [jeffromanczuk@sevier.org](mailto:jeffromanczuk@sevier.org), or by phone. These parent advocates do not have to be PAC members, but they do have to be (or have been) parents of Sevier County Special Education students. Jeff will pass along to the special education teachers at each school the names of those parents interested in helping in this way.



2006-2007  
SCHOOL YEAR  
August 17th Th.  
In-service First Day  
August 18th Fri.  
All SPED Inservice  
PFHS 8:30-11:30

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# THE MONITOR aka COMPLIANCE ISSUES

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*Mitigate a synonym of Improve  
def: to make less severe or painful  
(by improving performance)*

*State Cyclical Performance Review results:*

*Area's where we have improved over the past were:*

considering behavior in the development of IEP's,  
access to the general curriculum and extra-curricular activities,  
the provision of services to the 3-5 year old population alongside typically developing peers.

*Areas for Improvement---*

1) The way "Easy-Census" works, the student is dropped the day the IEP or Reevaluation is due. Give yourself enough lead time (days not hours) to have your meetings and get the information to Rebecca and Theresa. The program is web based and if one or both of them are absent or the system is down or the fax machine does not work on a particular day, the child could be dropped for funding from the census. So give yourself advance time for any and all problems that might occur.

2) Transition Plans - Address transitions on page 2, the Present Levels of Performance [PLOP] page. This can be anecdotal information in addition to any test data you may have. On the Invitation to a Meeting be sure to check "To consider the need to develop or revise the student's transition plan" and be sure the student and other agencies are invited. Fill in all four years of the transition plan. Seek out any possible agencies that might be involved in transition planning.

3) Evaluation prior to dismissal: "The LEA shall evaluate a child with a disability before determining that the child is no longer a child with a disability." This does not apply to students who are graduating or who are aging out of SPED. (LRP Publications 2005)

4) Fax to Rebecca after meetings front sheet, hours sheet and eligibility if appropriate

5) Leave NO BLANK SPACES

6) Leave NO BLANK SPACES

More to follow... You may want to file these where you can easily retrieve it or hole punch and keep in a notebook. If you have a question send it to [nancywohl@sevier.org](mailto:nancywohl@sevier.org)...I'll try to get an answer for you. Ω

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## Jeff's Computer Tip of the Month

If you are working on or revising a document save it to your My documents on the C: drive. If there are documents you want to save indefinitely you can put them on the H: drive, it may even have your name on it. This is like a backup and if your C: drive crashes the things on H will still be there.