

Exceptional Times for Parents

Department of Exceptional Children
Rowan-Salisbury Schools



Extraordinary Education Everyday

September
2018

A Note from the EC Director

We are excited to begin a new school year and even more excited to have your children back with us! We truly feel privileged that you have entrusted your child(ren) in our care, and we are eager to partner with you to ensure your child's positive growth and progress.

During the course of the school year, our department will hold and/or participate in various events which I am hopeful you too will attend. On September 18th at 6:30, I will be attending The Autism Society of NC Rowan Chapter meeting and then on September 26th at 6:30 PM I will be at a Partners in Learning(Catawba College) event. I look forward to meeting and speaking with you throughout the year whether it is at one of these events, at your child's school, or at the Wallace Forum.

Please know that we are here to work with you and on behalf of your child(ren). Should you have questions or concerns, go to your child's EC case manager first. The building level principal or EC Program Specialist assigned to your child's school are other resources. Lastly, in the event your concerns continue, call the Exceptional Children's Department directly and another member of our team will be glad to assist.

Do you have any suggestions for improvement? If so, we want to hear from you. In fact, in the months ahead we will even introduce a parent survey to be completed following IEP meetings to assess our effectiveness. Your feedback will be critical in terms of program improvement and effective service delivery.

Candace Lindstrom

Meet the Team:

Karen Sylvester, EC Coordinator
Josh Wells, EC Compliance
Amy Davis, Preschool Coordinator
Rebecca Graham, Finance Specialist
Elsa Landaverde, Interpreter
Tiffany Earnhardt, Parent Liaison
Jill Debose, Social Worker

Curriculum Specialists:

Angela Barbetto, General Curriculum
Sarah Brown, General Curriculum
Sara Kitchen, Adapted Curr./Autism

EC Program Specialists:

Sherry Crider, South
Lisa Ewers, East
Carlton Jackson, Homebound
Matthew Krome, North
Suzette Pritchard, West
Lorin Stubblefield, Southeast
Mandi Sweet, Salisbury
Claire Watts, Alternative Programs

Behavior Specialists:

Cath Bebbler, North and
Alan Hand, Salisbury and
Regina Clark-Parker, East and

EC Leads:

Susan Brady, Occupational Therapist
Kristen Eden, Physical Therapist
Betsy Pless, School Psychologist
Jennifer Ritchie, Speech

"The only true disability is a broken spirit."
--Aimee Mullins

Know Your Rights

Requesting an IEP Meeting

You can request an IEP meeting at any time during the school year or even the summer. You do not have to wait for your child's EC case manager to contact you for an annual review or re-evaluation determination conference. If you have a concern about your child's IEP or progress, simply reach out to your child's EC case manager and request that an IEP meeting be scheduled. It may be helpful to put your request in writing and send it to the EC case manager directly.

Keep in mind that once you request an IEP meeting the EC case manager is legally required to send you a written invitation to conference that provides you with adequate 7 to 10 days' notice of the meeting date and time. The invitation will state the purpose of the meeting and alert you to whom will be participating. Lastly, if your child is 14 years or older (or will be during the life of the IEP), he/she will receive a written invitation to conference too.

Parent Resources

While we hope we can address your questions and concerns at the school or district level, we realize there may be occasions when you want to access resources outside of the school district for assistance. Below are just a few resources within the state that routinely help families navigate the exceptional children's process:

Autism Society Rowan Chapter

<https://www.autismsociety-nc.org/>

The Arc of Rowan

<http://www.thearcofrowan.org/>

Disability Rights

<https://www.disabilityrightsn.org/>

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center

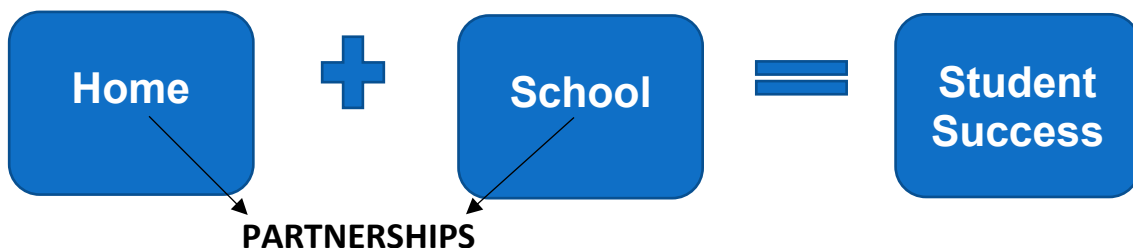
<https://www.ecac-parentcenter.org/>

Family Support Network of Central Carolina

<http://www.fsncc.org/>

NCDPI EC Division

<https://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/>



The Rowan-Salisbury Exceptional Children's Department will work as a collaborative team to provide all students inspiring, engaging and innovative personalized educational experiences to promote positive student growth and post-school outcomes in a globally diverse society.

We value

- Actions and results for children that inspire community pride
- Meeting the needs of the whole child including: academic, social-emotional, behavioral, vocational, post-secondary
- The importance of community partnerships to promote equitable opportunities for children across the district (Pre K-12+)
- Each child's unique abilities and gifts

Preparing for Your Child's IEP Meeting

Tips from ECAC

- EVERY child can learn and make progress.
- The steps of the IEP Process must be followed in the correct order.
- The "I" in IEP stands for individualized. Your child's IEP must reflect your child.
- The IEP should be specific, detailed and easily understandable by anyone – even if someone who is not a member of the current IEP Team.
- Special Education is NOT a place. Special Education is the supports and services your child receives through his or her IEP.
- On the IEP, Placement is NOT a location. Placement is the amount of time spent with special education services.
- Statements about your child's Present Level of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance are critical parts of the IEP. They must be crystal clear and accurate.
- Goals need to be logical, measurable, and relevant to your child.
- The IEP Team should work together to reach a consensus. IEP team do not take votes in an effort to reach decisions.
- Stay focused! Don't get sidetracked.
- Parents are the constant – providing continuity to an ever-changing IEP Team.
- Lack of money and/or other resources does not exempt a school district from providing what a child needs.
- Don't leave the meeting without a copy of your child's IEP!

Upcoming Events

- **September 8, 2018 at 10:00 AM** **Sensory-Friendly showing of Christopher Robin at Cinemark Tinseltown USA**
- **September 18, 2018 at 6:30 PM** **Autism Society of NC Rowan Chapter Meeting with Candace Lindstrom, RSS EC Director**
- **October 27, 2018 at 9:00 AM** **Wings for Autism/Wings for All at the Piedmont Triad International Airport. Registration opens September 10, 2018. <https://www.thearc.org/wingsforautism>**

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