



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: September 25, 2024

To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities

Route To: Directors of Special Education, Principals, Child Study Team Members, Teachers

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

New Resources on Self-Advocacy for Students with Disabilities and their Families

The Boggs Center on Disability and Human Development at Rutgers University, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Office of Special Education (OSE), is excited to announce the release of a series of family workbooks. These workbooks are designed to help students with disabilities, and their families, across various grade and age ranges, actively participate and have their voices heard in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process.

The workbooks (for students in Pre-K through 2nd grade, grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 8, grades 9 through 12, and ages 18 through 21) were developed to support students with disabilities and their families in developing self-advocacy and self-determination skills that can support a path to a meaningful life. Self-advocacy skills are vital, as they enable children to clearly communicate their needs and advocate for their own success with educators and others.

The NJDOE strongly encourages school leaders, child study team members, and teachers to provide these workbooks to families of students with disabilities. The workbooks can be used at home, either in part or in full, to help incorporate person-centered information into the IEP process. Families can share the insights and information gathered from the workbook activities with the child's case manager before and during the IEP meeting.

The workbooks can be downloaded from the [Person-Centered Approaches in Schools and Transition](#) (PCAST) website by clicking on the "PCAST Resources" tab.

Questions and feedback regarding these workbooks can be emailed to oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group