GET INVOLVED WITH SSD’S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

SSD’s Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is looking for family members to join the SSD PAC to:
- Provide feedback to influence District policy
- Help improve communication between your district or school building and SSD
- Network and build a community with other families
- Become informed

The PAC typically meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town & Country. Meetings for the 2019-2020 school year are scheduled for Feb. 12, April 8 and May 13. Visit the PAC’s website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings: www.ssdmo.org/leadership/pac.html

SSD Parent Leadership Institute Fall 2020

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSIONS SEPT. 30, OCT. 7, OCT. 14

Close your eyes and picture an educational leader. There’s a good chance the image in your mind will be that of a teacher, a school administrator or possibly a public policy maker.

Yet the nearest educational leader may be closer than you think: it’s you!

“Life-changing” is how parents describe the experience of attending SSD’s Parent Leadership Institute.

Since 2006, the Institute has been committed to providing information, training, and resources to local parents of children who have disabilities. It is presented by the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program.

During several sessions, parents work to develop a vision for their children’s future and, more importantly, the confidence to make it happen.

Graduates of the Institute walk away with knowledge about how to effectively participate in their child’s education as well as the leadership skills they need to improve the educational climate for all children.

The application deadline for the 2020 Parent Leadership Institute is May 1. Visit http://bit.ly/ssdparentleadership to download the application, or call 314.989.8460 with questions or to request a paper copy.

Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Online Resources

To support our goal of reaching all families, the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness (PEDA) Program has established a set of online resource pages. In addition to the information found on the SSD website, you can now find a vast array of additional resources by visiting http://planninganddevelopment.ssdmo.org/parent-education.html

These new pages were designed utilizing feedback from families and the community. In addition to more information on workshops and library materials available through the Family and Community Resource Center, you will also find Parent/Family and Community Resource pages that include:

- Redesigned SSD Parent Handbook
- Electronic copies of all our resource packets and brochures
- IEP tools and resources
- Early childhood-specific information
- Resources in different languages
- Links to online webinars and videos on a variety of topics
- And much, much more!
New Location for PEDA and FCRC

Beginning this semester, the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness (PEDA) staff, including the Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC), have moved to:

SSD Learning Center
900 Hornet Drive
Hazelwood, MO 63042

Phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

SSD FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER (FCRC)

The FCRC provides a vast array of special education and disability-related tools and resources for SSD families and the community at large. The FCRC’s collection includes thousands of books, DVDs, resource packets and more.

To view the online library of materials, visit www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/fcrc_books.html

Call 314.989.8460 or email ssdpeda@ssdmo.org to have books or DVDs sent home through school mail (via your child’s backpack) if your child is served by SSD. To request materials sent home, we will need your name, address, phone number, email address, child’s name, teacher and school.

If your child is not served by SSD or you are a community member, you are welcome to check out or request materials and pick them up.

Like our workshops, all FCRC library materials are also available to all parents, families and community members. You do not need to be served by SSD or live in St. Louis County. For families or community members not served by SSD, requested library items or materials can be picked up from SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country, MO 63131, or the SSD Learning Center, 900 Hornet Drive, Hazelwood, MO 63042.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

All workshops are provided free of charge and open to all parents, families and community members. You do not need to be served by SSD or live in St. Louis County to attend.

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:

1. Call 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HH).  
2. Email registrant’s name, workshop name and date, phone number and school district to ssdregistration@ssdmo.org  
3. Register online at https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsnn (call the registration number for assistance with setting up an account).

We strongly encourage workshop registration to ensure that you are notified if any unexpected circumstances or weather conditions necessitate a cancellation. We need to be able to contact you!

If you need more information or have special needs and require an alternative format as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact Debra Fiasco, Administrator, Parent Education, dfiasco@ssdmo.org, 314.989.8108 or 711 (Deaf/HH).

Unless otherwise noted with this symbol, all workshops are held at SSD’s Central Administrative Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country (just east of Ballas Road, next to Neuwoehner High School). Please note, all attendees must enter on the upper level. Childcare is not provided.
What to Do This Summer?

If this is the question that you begin to think about in April or May, don’t delay. Many programs fill up quickly.

Here are several chances to get more information about summer programs:

- **Summer Opportunities Fair**
  Feb. 12, 5-7 p.m.
  Northview High School
  1520 Derhake Road, Florissant, MO 63033

- **“What to Do This Summer” Recreation Fair**
  Feb. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.
  SSD Central Office
  12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis MO 63131

During the Feb. 13 fair, the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis will present information on funding and recreation vouchers from 6:30-6:50 pm.

The Feb. 13 event will begin at 6:50 p.m., when providers of summer camps and programs will be available to discuss their programs.

The Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis is a not-for-profit organization that serves as a “clearinghouse” for information on leisure, recreation and socialization opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Greater St. Louis Area. The Council works to ensure that individuals with disabilities are aware of and have access to activities and programs of their “choice.”

The SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Summer Resource Packet will be available after Feb. 13. To request a copy please call 314.989.8460 or email rdmyers@ssdmo.org.

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**SSD PARENT EDUCATION & DIVERSITY AWARENESS PROGRAM EMAIL LIST**

Want to receive email updates and notices about our workshops and other local events and opportunities?

To join our email distribution list:

- Send your email address to ssdpeda@ssdmo.org
- Call us at 314.989.8460

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**BE PREPARED FOR WINTER WEATHER**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Follow the SSD Facebook Page and SSD Twitter account (@SSDStLCo) for the latest information about possible school closings or delays. You can also follow each of our SSD schools on Facebook and Twitter.

**WWW.SSDMO.ORG**

Any weather delays or closings will also be shared on the SSD website: www.ssdmo.org.

**PHONE CALL AND EMAIL**

Be sure that your contact information is up to date in the parent portal to receive a phone call or email in the event of a weather delay or closing.

- All workshops and evening events will be cancelled if SSD schools are closed.
- Information about SSD school closings will be posted on the homepage of the SSD website, on SSD’s Facebook page and on SSD’s Twitter account.
- The District also shares school closing information via local television and radio stations.
- If a workshop or event is cancelled, all registered participants will receive an email announcement of cancellation. Registration for workshops/events is not required but is strongly encouraged.
- A recorded message announcing cancellation of any workshop or event that is included in this newsletter will be available by calling 314.989.8460.
**FEBRUARY**

**Summer Opportunities Fair**
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5-7 p.m.
Presenters: Susan Fleming, Executive Director of the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis, and recreation providers
Northview School – 1520 Derhake Road, Florissant, MO 63033
Are you looking for overnight camps, day camps, teen programs, sports and recreation activities, travel programs and more? Representatives from various recreation agencies will provide information on summer opportunities for children, teens and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Open to all SSD students, families, and staff.

**SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting**
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room
This meeting is open to all parents and families.

**“What to Do This Summer” Recreation Fair**
Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30-8 p.m.
Presenters: Susan Fleming, Executive Director of the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis, and recreation providers
SSD Central Office
In this recreation fair, parents will be able to visit with providers of summer programs and camps that include all children. Recreation voucher and funding information will be presented from 6:30-6:50 p.m.

**Orientation for Parents to Special Education and the IEP Process**
Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness
SSD Central Office
Is special education sounding like alphabet soup? OTs, PTs, IEPs? This orientation is designed to provide parents with an overview of special education services and how they are provided through Special School District. Learn more about how to develop an effective individualized education program (IEP) and understand educational rights and community resources.

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**MARCH**

**Technology & Student Supports: What You Need to Know**
Tuesday, March 3, 6-8 p.m.
Presenters: SSD Assistive Technology & Augmentative Communication Facilitators
SSD Central Office
Curious about how technology could support your student’s learning in the classroom? Interested in learning more about different types of technology (including low tech options!) and how to work with your child’s team around technology? This workshop will cover how technology can benefit students with a variety of learning abilities and will provide resources and tools for working with your team to consider possibilities.

**Sexuality Education: Talking with Your Child about Body Safety and Boundaries**
Wednesday, March 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Barbara Gross, M.A., BCBA, LBA, SSD Associate Behavior Analyst
SSD Central Office
This workshop will address a variety of topics, including safety, understanding what is public and what is private, puberty and independence.

**Disagreement Resolution Process**
Wednesday, March 11, 6-8 p.m.
Presenter: MPACT staff
SSD Central Office
Learn strategies to prevent problems through documentation and letter writing. Also covered are the resolution process in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Ending the Silence for Families**
Wednesday, March 11, 6-8 p.m.
Presenter: Amy Coffelt, Program Coordinator, Ending the Silence, NAMI St. Louis
SSD Central Office
This session will provide information about the early warning signs of mental illness and how early recognition and prevention is key to positive outcomes. One in five children experiences a mental health condition; only 20 percent of them actually get help. Topics will include recognizing the warning signs of mental health conditions, how to talk to your child or your child’s friend, how to work with school staff, the warning signs of suicide, and how you can help.

**Self-Determination: A Key to Student Success**
Thursday, March 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Jeff Schneider, SSD Transition Effective Practice Specialist
SSD Central Office
Self-determination is an important skill that students need when learning how to make choices and decisions based on their own preferences and interests. The development of self-determination skills is a process that begins in childhood and continues throughout one’s life. This leads to students’ ability to monitor and regulate their own actions and to be goal-oriented and self-directing. This workshop will provide participants with an overview.
of self-determination and best practice principles that will support student post school outcomes.

**Structured Literacy:**

**What Parents Need to Know**

Tuesday, March 31, 6-8 p.m.

Presenter: Jill Yochim, SSD Literacy Coach

SSD Central Office

In this workshop, parents will gain information on what reading instruction should look like for their early or struggling reader, and which strategies are the most effective.

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**APRIL**

**Planning for the Future:**

**Benefits and Future's Planning**

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Bhavik R. Patel, Attorney, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard P.C.

SSD Central Office

This workshop is designed to provide information to students and their families about the planning process for the future in the areas of special needs planning, SSI, Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Information about laws pertaining to government benefit eligibility, the use of special needs trusts and guardianships and conservatorships will be covered.

**SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting**

Wednesday, April 8, 7-9 p.m.

SSD Central Office, Board Room

This meeting is open to all parents and families.

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**Meeting Your Child Where They Are At: Math Strategies for All Parents**

Thursday, April 9, 6-8 p.m.

Presenter: Jessica Spencer, Ph.D., SSD Facilitator

SSD Central Office

Do you want to learn some strategies to reinforce your student's math skills at home? Come learn a few ways to focus on math...without extra worksheets! This workshop will support all families’ comfort levels with math instruction. While most of the workshop focus will be centered on elementary-age math, parents/guardians of middle and high school students are welcome.

**The Ins and Outs of Eating, Toileting, and Sleeping**

Thursday, April 9, 6-8:30 p.m.

Presenter: Jenny Frisbee M.A., BCBA, LBA, SSD Applied Behavior Analysis

SSD Central Office

Eating, toileting, and sleeping are common concerns for families of children with autism and developmental disabilities. When families encounter problems with any of these three necessary functions, it can impact the quality of life and cause a considerable amount of stress for all family members. This presentation will address common causes associated with eating, sleeping, and toileting problems, what you can do to prevent problems, how to work through problems once they occur, and resources to guide you along the way.

**Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders – Two Part Class**

Thursdays, April 16 & 23, 6-8 p.m.

Presenter: John Bruno, SSD Autism Effective Practice Specialist

SSD Central Office

Identify and understand the characteristics of autism spectrum disorders and learn effective, practical strategies that will support your child in being more successful at home and school. The second session will focus more on strategies, with time for discussion and questions and may break out into sessions based on your child's intervention needs.

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**Supported Decision Making: An Alternative to Guardianship**

Thursday, April 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Presenters: Director of Family Support, St. Louis Arc, and SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Administrators

St. Louis ARC, 1177 North Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63132

When an individual with a disability becomes 18, they are legally an adult. This workshop is designed to help families understand the options they have to assist their loved one in making good decisions without removing their rights through guardianship. We will learn how to assess the decision making skills of your family members and the supports they already use to assist them in making decisions. Legally binding tools that can be created with the person and their family without seeking guardianship will be shared and discussed.

**Understanding Challenging Behaviors in the Home & School**

Tuesday, April 21, 6-8 p.m.

Presenter: Carrie Aydt, SSD Social/Emotional/Behavioral Effective Practice Specialist

SSD Central Office

This workshop will offer strategies for parents to help work with challenging behaviors in the home. In addition, parents will learn how to advocate for their children when they are exhibiting challenging behaviors in the classroom.

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**REGISTERING FOR WORKSHOPS**

**CALL US:** 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HH)

**REGISTER ONLINE:** https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsmn

Call the registration number for help with setting up an account.

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Call 314.989.7807 or email ssdregistration@ssdmo.org to register for parent workshops.

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Call 314.989.7807 or email ssdregistration@ssdmo.org to register for parent workshops.
Planning for Your Child’s Future

Futures planning is a process for planning the transition from school to adult life or other significant changes in an individual’s life.

The focus is on paving a path to the development of personal relationships, meaningful roles in community life, self-determination, and the skills to achieve these goals.

FUTURES PLANNING IMPACT ON STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- Prompts families to think about what their young person will need in the future.
- Brings the young person’s dreams into focus for their parents.
- Provides a clear list of action items that need to be addressed within a certain timeframe and identifies who is responsible for carrying them out.
- Helps parents to address issues such as guardianship, medical concerns and other areas that they may be hesitant to discuss.
- Empowers parents and other family members to become more active in their young person’s life.
- Helps parents realize that there are others, such as family members, who are willing to be involved in advocating for their young person.
- Brings together people who may have previously been adversarial or focused on the service system. This opportunity allows these people to view the student as a caring, thoughtful person who has dreams and goals.

If you are interested in discussing futures planning with your child’s team, start by reaching out to their SSD case manager or teacher to request a meeting with the SSD transition facilitator assigned to your school district.

More information about futures planning is available in the SSD Transition Guidebook, which can be found at ssdmo.org or by contacting SSD’s Parent Education and Diversity Awareness staff at 314.989.8460 or ssdpeda@ssdmo.org.
EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR (ESY) 2020

Extended School Year (ESY) services are offered during the summer for students who receive special education services and who the IEP team find eligible to receive ESY services. ESY is not the same as summer school, which school districts may or may not offer to district students.

ESY services generally begin in June, either Monday to Thursday or Monday to Friday. Most programs run three to four hours in the morning. SSD attempts to match the timing of special education ESY services to regular summer school/enrichment programming in a student’s home district.

Student enrollment forms for ESY will be mailed to qualified families on Feb. 17, 2020. Forms should be signed and returned to the student’s case manager by March 4, 2020. Information regarding ESY can be found on the Special Considerations page of the students’ IEP, as well as on Form B.

If you have questions about ESY and/or your child’s eligibility, contact his or her IEP case manager/chairperson. You may also contact your child’s area coordinator or SSD principal with further questions. You can also learn more about ESY by contacting the SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness program at 314.989.8460.

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RESOURCE PACKETS FROM SSD’S FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Resource packets are now available for immediate use online! Visit [http://planninganddevelopment.ssdmo.org/resource-packets.html](http://planninganddevelopment.ssdmo.org/resource-packets.html) to download resource packets or to access the order form.

Resource packets contain great articles on the topics below plus a list of books and videos available to check out from the Family & Community Resource Center. You may order up to THREE packets at a time using the order form below. Whenever possible, we will send them through school mail to come home with your child.

- Ability Awareness
- Anxiety Disorders
- Assistive Technology
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Awareness for Grandparents & Extended Family
- Behavior Strategies
- Benefits and Estate Planning
- Bipolar Disorder
- Blind/Visually Impaired
- Bullying
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Depression
- Divorce & Children with Special Needs
- Down Syndrome
- Dyslexia
- Early Childhood Special Education
- Encouraging Independence
- Executive Functioning
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS)
- Friendship & Social Skills Strategies
- Gifted & Disability
- Homework Strategies
- Inclusion Matters
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities
- Math/Numeracy
- Multiple Disabilities
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Parenting a Child with a Disability
- Positive Behavioral Support
- Post-Secondary Education
- Reading Strategies & Resources
- Self-Esteem
- Sensory Integration
- Sexuality
- Siblings
- Speech & Language
- Stress
- Summer Education & Recreation Resources
- Supported Decision Making/Guardianship
- Supported Employment
- Supported Living
- Talking to Your Child about Their Disability
- Toilet Training Strategies
- Transition Planning
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Writing Strategies

TO SEND INFORMATION THROUGH YOUR CHILD’S SCHOOL, WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Your Name: ____________________________ Child’s Name: ____________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________ Child’s Age: ___________ Child’s Grade Level: ___________

Email Address: ____________________________ Child’s Special Education Teacher or Therapist: ____________________________

Child’s School: ____________________________ School District: ____________________________

Please complete and return this form by mail, phone, email, fax or through your child's SSD teacher to:

SSD Parent Education & Diversity Awareness
900 Hornet Drive - Hazelwood, MO 63042

Phone: 314.989.8460 Deaf/HOH: 711 Fax: 314.989.8449
Email: rdmyers@ssdmo.org

Call 314.989.7807 or email ssdregistration@ssdmo.org to register for parent workshops
PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

MICHELLE LEVI PEREZ
314.989.8438 | mleviperez@ssdmo.org
Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood

DEBRA FIASCO
314.989.8108 | dmfiasco@ssdmo.org
Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Mehlville, Valley Park, Webster Groves

ELIZABETH FOX
314.989.8194 | ehfox@ssdmo.org
Clayton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, University City

RACHEL MYERS
314.989.8431 | rdmyers@ssdmo.org
Family & Community Resource Center & Point of Contact

WE'D LOVE YOUR FEEDBACK!
The recent redesign of the Parent Connection newsletter is one step toward supporting the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness (PEDA) program's vision and goal of getting resources and information into every family's hands.

If you have any specific feedback about the newsletter redesign or regarding the new website pages (Example: something you'd like to see added, a specific resource included, suggestions on navigation), please forward it to ssdpeda@ssdmo.org.

PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, call 314.989.8460 or email ssdpeda@ssdmo.org.

SSD MISSION: In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

SSD VISION: Partners for each student's success

SSD CORE VALUES:
Student Success • Collaboration
Integrity • Stewardship
Continuous Improvement
Equity • Accountability

Special School District Notice of Non-Discrimination and Accommodation: Special School District does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against an individual based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, veteran status, age, or activity protected by federal or state law in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Direct inquiries and complaints under this policy to Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison, 12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131, telephone (314) 989-8100 or to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, telephone (816) 268-0550, fax (816) 268-0599, TDD (800) 877-8339, email OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov. Information about the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities accessible to impaired persons can be obtained from the Special School District’s Director – Compliance Liaison at the phone number and address listed above.

WE PROVIDE:
- Advice and consultation about your child’s IEP
- Free parent workshops
- Free lending library
- Help in finding community resources and supports
- Ability awareness resources

Special School District of St. Louis County
12110 Clayton Road
Town & Country, MO 63131