To support our goal of reaching all families, the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness (PEDA) Program is thrilled to announce our new resources 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!

UPCOMING WORKSHOP: “Charting the Course to a ‘Good Life’ for All”

OPEN TO ALL FAMILIES, COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONALS

Life is a journey with many different paths, adventures and sometimes even roadblocks. It can be difficult figuring out steps for the next day and overwhelming thinking about the future. The SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness program is thrilled to bring in Dr. Michelle (Sheli) Reynolds to make it easier to problem-solve and plan for now and the future decisions for your child and your entire family. Dr. Reynolds will provide information and tools that build on her professional knowledge, as well as her experience growing up as a sibling to a brother with a developmental disability.

This framework was created BY FAMILIES to help individuals and families of all abilities and all ages develop a vision for a good life.

Dr. Reynolds is the Associate Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the UMKC Institute for Human Development, University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and a Research Associate Professor with the UMKC School of Medicine. She will share how this framework is being used to guide multi-level, person-centered policy and practice change in more than 21 states. Locally, state agencies, providers and SSD are adopting and/or incorporating this framework for individual plans and to educate and support families as they develop a vision and plan across the lifespan with and for their child/adult with disabilities.

For more information on the tools, please visit www.lifecoursetools.com
Open House/Tour

Looking for support materials, tools or information? Not sure what resources are available?

SSD’s Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) and Instructional Resource Center (IRC) are hosting an open house/tour from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

Both the FCRC and the IRC are located on the ground floor of the SSD Central Office building, 12110 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO 63131

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

All workshops are provided free of charge and open to all parents, families and community members.

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).

Please be sure to register for workshops as they are sometimes canceled due to unexpected circumstances or weather conditions. We need to be able to contact you!

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

Unless otherwise noted with this symbol, all workshops are held on the lower level at SSD’s Central Administrative Office, 12110 Clayton Road, Town & Country (just east of Ballas Road, next to Neuwoehner High School). Childcare is not provided.

Note: Workshops presented by MPACT refers to Missouri’s statewide Parent Training and Information Center that serves all disabilities and all ages.

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 from SSD Central Office.

SSD INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE CENTER (IRC)

The IRC has curricular support materials and some assistive technology available for checkout to the parents and teachers of Special School District. For more information or to request a tour, please visit: www.ssdmo.org/cool_tools/irc.html, call 314.989.8308 or email tebyrd@ssdmo.org.
IEP Family Survey Results

After an initial or annual IEP, families who have provided SSD with their email address have been receiving an electronic request to complete an Individualized Education Program (IEP) survey. SSD received 2,300 completed surveys during the 2018-2019 school year — a 14.3% return rate.

The survey provides the district with valuable feedback on what is going well and where we could continue to improve. A positive trend that emerged this year centered on the relationships families have developed with their teams. While the overwhelming majority of the responses are positive, the area of greatest opportunity based on the survey centered on communication — specifically around a more proactive approach both prior to an IEP and ongoing throughout the year. Another area that emerged from the feedback was the length of time allotted for the IEP meeting.

As a response to these trends, SSD is considering the following strategies: working with our teacher advisory committee, sharing data and trends with all teachers during back-to-school orientations and expanding the IEP survey question around meeting length so that we can dig deeper to determine common trends.

If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact SSD’s Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program at 314.989.8460 or ssdpeda@ssdmo.org. Thank you for your feedback, and please continue to share your experiences so we can continuously improve our practices.

IEP SURVEY REMINDERS

- The purpose of the survey is to improve the IEP meeting process countywide.
- Your individual responses are kept confidential and are not shared with your team.
- If you do not wish to share your email address or do not have email, you can access the survey by visiting www.ssdmo.org/YourVoiceCounts.html or by requesting a hard copy of the survey from your child’s case manager.
SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room
This meeting is open to all parents.
Visit the PAC’s website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings: https://sites.google.com/a/ssdmo.org/ssdpac

Open House/Tour: SSD’s Family and Community Resource Center (FCRC) and Instructional Resource Center (IRC)
Wednesday, Sept. 11, 4-7 p.m.
SSD Central Office – Lower Level
Come see all of the resources that are available to staff and families in SSD’s two resource centers. The FCRC provides a variety of special education and disability-related tools and resources for families, staff and the community at large. The IRC offers curricular support materials and some assistive technology for checkout to SSD teachers and families who receive services from SSD.

SSD Technical High Schools: Is This a Good Fit for Your Student?
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6-7:30 p.m.
North Technical High School, 1700 Derhake Road, Florissant, MO 63033
OR
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6-7:30 p.m.
South Technical High School, 12721 W. Watson Road, Sunset Hills, MO 63127
Presenters: Emily Degenhardt and Amy Noble
You don’t have to wait until high school to begin thinking about this option! If your child benefits from hands-on learning and has inclinations in fields as varied as construction trades, medical sciences, culinary arts, automotive, cosmetology, electronics, information technology, public safety and more, then you will want to hear from staff members at North and South Technical High Schools. Prerequisite skills for various programs, situational assessments to help determine a student’s real interest and aptitude, and admission requirements will be discussed. Most programs offer certification with stringent requirements and can lead to further post-secondary education and successful careers. Students are encouraged to attend.

Self-Determination: A Key to Student Success
Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Room 60
Self-determination is an important skill for students to learn how to make choices and decisions based on their own preferences and interests, to monitor and regulate their own actions and to be goal-oriented and self-directing. The development of self-determination skills is a process that begins in childhood and continues throughout one’s life. Come learn more about the role of self-determination for student success and what families can do to support self-determination development.

SSD’s ABA Department
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Room 61
The Art of Effective Advocacy
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenters: SSD Interpreters
The basic principles of behavior analysis continuum of services provided through SSD’s ABA department as well as discuss the basic principles of behavior analysis and how they are applied in an educational setting.

Signs for Families and Friends – 6 sessions
Wednesdays, Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 6-7:30 p.m.
Presenters: Greg Petersen, Mickey Schuchardt
SSD Central Office, Room 61
This family-focused, six-part series focuses on sign language vocabulary, sign sentence structure, conceptual accuracy, facial expressions, and body language. Children 10 and older are welcome if accompanied/supervised by an adult.

The Art of Effective Advocacy
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenters: MPACT staff
SSD Central Office, Room 60
Learn the importance of keeping and organizing records, what information needs to be in your child’s file, how to communicate more effectively with your child’s school district and the importance of working collaboratively to solve problems.

REGISTERING FOR WORKSHOPS

CALL US: 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HH)
REGISTER ONLINE: https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsnn
Call the registration number for help with setting up an account.
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!

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

**Tuesday, Oct. 1, 6:30-8 p.m.**
**Presenter: Jessica Spencer, Ph.D.**
**SSD Central Office, Room 60**

**Social Security, Medicaid Benefits and Employment: Making it All Work**

**Thursday, Oct. 3, 6:30-8 p.m.**
**Presenter: Sandy Keyser, Employment First Specialist, Department Of Mental Health: Division of Developmental Disabilities**
**SSD Central Office, Room 61**

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!

**Behavioral Strategies in the Home and Community**

**Thursday, Oct. 10, 6-8 p.m.**
**Presenter: Keely Stephens M.S., BCBA**
**SSD Central Office, Room 60**

This workshop will review common positive behavior practices that can be used in the home and community, strategies to develop and apply plans and a review of the resources available within the community. Families will walk away with a starting point to make home and community environments positive, fun and interactive!

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

**Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**
**Presenters: Sharon Spurlock, Director of Family Support, St. Louis Arc, and Debra Fiasco, SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness**

When an individual with a disability turns 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. Learn how to assess the decision making skills your family members have and the supports they already use to assist them when making decisions. Legally binding tools that can be created with the person and their family, without seeking guardianship, will be shared and discussed.

**OCTOBER**

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

Section 504 and Students with Disabilities
Wednesday, Nov. 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: MPACT staff
SSD Central Office, Room 61
The term “Section 504” refers to a specific part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities by any program or activity that receives federal funding. This includes all public schools and any private schools that receive federal funds. Learn about the legal background of Section 504, the evaluation process, 504 plans and services and the procedural safeguards in place to protect individuals with disabilities.

Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders – Two-Part Class
Thursdays, Nov. 7 & 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenters: Autism Effective Practice Specialists
SSD Central Office, Room 60
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.

Planning for the Future: Benefits and Future's Planning
Tuesday, Nov. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Bhavik R. Patel, Attorney, Sandberg Phoenix & Von Gontard P.C.
SSD Central Office, Room 60
This workshop will provide information about the planning process for the future in the areas of special needs planning, SSI, Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. Information about the 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, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room
This meeting is open to all parents.
Visit the PAC’s website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings: https://sites.google.com/a/ssdmo.org/ssdpac

Using Supported Decision Making: Hands-On Toolkit to Build Capacity
Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenters: Sharon Spurlock, Director of Family Support, St. Louis Arc, and Debra Fiasco, SSD Parent Education and Diversity Awareness
St. Louis ARC – 1177 North Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63132
When an individual with a disability becomes 18, they are legally an adult. Using tools from Missouri Guardianship and Charting the LifeCourse, presenters will coach your family to assess decision making in each of six life domains – health, employment, safety, advocacy, social and community living – and create a plan to utilize a variety of resources to build self-determination skills. This workshop is ideal for primary caregivers and their family member with a disability to attend together with siblings and other key people who support planning and problem solving in their lives.

Mindful Parenting
Tuesday, Nov. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Ryan Guffey and Kelsey Steffens, PBIS Facilitators
SSD Central Office, Room 60
This workshop will explore self-care and regulating your emotions alongside your child. Are you experiencing high stress levels around your child’s behavior? Are you looking for strategies to help you slow down and mindfully parent while having an opportunity to learn with and from others? Then this workshop is for you!

DECEMBER

Charting the Course to a “Good Life” for All
Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6-8:30 p.m.
Presenter: Michelle (Sheli) C. Reynolds, Ph.D. – UMKC Institute for Human Development, UCEDD
SSD Central Office, Room 60
Life is journey with many different paths, adventures and sometimes even roadblocks. It can be difficult figuring out steps for the next day and overwhelming thinking about the future.
This workshop will provide an overview and next steps to utilizing the Charting the LifeCourse framework that has been adopted by local and state agencies. This framework promotes the core belief that “All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations in their community”. Come learn how to create individual plans and to educate and support yourself or families as you develop a vision and plan across the lifespan with and for children/adults with disabilities. See front page for more details.

SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room
This meeting is open to all parents.
Visit the PAC’s website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings: https://sites.google.com/a/ssdmo.org/ssdpac

JANUARY

SSD Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7-9 p.m.
SSD Central Office, Board Room
This meeting is open to all parents.
Visit the PAC’s website for more information and to see highlight videos from past PAC meetings: https://sites.google.com/a/ssdmo.org/ssdpac

REGISTERING FOR WORKSHOPS

CALL US: 314.989.7807 or 711 (Deaf/HH)
REGISTER ONLINE: https://tinyurl.com/ycd7hsnn
Call the registration number for help with setting up an account.
INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS WEEK:
December 2-6

Inclusive Schools Week is an annual event sponsored by the Inclusive Schools Network (ISN) and Stetson & Associates, Inc. that is held each year during the first full week in December. Since its inception in 2001, Inclusive Schools Week has celebrated the progress that schools have made in providing a supportive and quality education to an increasingly diverse student population, including students who are marginalized due to disability, gender, socio-economic status, cultural heritage, language preference, and other factors. The week also provides an important opportunity for educators, students and parents to discuss what else needs to be done in order to ensure that their schools continue to improve their ability to successfully educate all children.

This year, the Inclusive Schools Week theme is “Charting the Course for Inclusive Schools.” Join us in celebrating Inclusive Schools Week December 2-6, 2019!

Download free resources that make celebrating Inclusive Schools Week easy! Visit http://inclusiveschools.org/inclusive-schools-week or call PEDA at 314.989.8460.

RESOURCE PACKETS FROM SSD’S FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

NEW – Resource packets are now available for immediate use online! Visit 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
12110 Clayton Road - St. Louis, MO 63131

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 Connection is a publication of the Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program of Special School District of St. Louis County.

**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

**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

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**NEW DESIGN FOR PARENT CONNECTION NEWSLETTER**

Did you notice anything different about the Parent Connection newsletter? Our new look 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, please forward it to ssdpeda@ssdmo.org.

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**PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**MICHIELE LEVI PEREZ**
314.989.8438 | mleviperez@ssdmo.org
Parkway, Pattonville, Ritenour, Rockwood, Litzsinger and Neuwoehner schools, JDC, Lakeside

**DEBRA FIASCO**
314.989.8108 | dmfiasco@ssdmo.org
Affton, Bayless, Brentwood, Hancock Place, Kirkwood, Ladue, Lindbergh, Maplewood-Richmond Heights, Mehlville, Valley Park, Webster Groves, Southview School, South Technical High School, Vocational Skills Program

**TO BE ANNOUNCED (CALL NUMBERS ABOVE)**
Clayton, Ferguson-Florissant, Hazelwood, Jennings, Normandy, Riverview Gardens, University City, Northview and Ackerman schools, North Technical High School

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

**SARAH GEER** – Program Assistant

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