



WEST VIRGINIA PARENT
TRAINING & INFORMATION



Back to School Time Newsletter

We want to help you!

August 2020

Our mission is to inspire, educate and empower parents through information, training and support to become informed, effective partners and advocates in planning appropriate educational, transitional and medical healthcare outcomes for their children and youth.

As a result of our assistance to parents, families, and professionals, children and youth with disabilities will lead rich, active lives and participate as full members of their schools, communities, postsecondary career choices and independent living.



News from the Director!

Many of you, parents and caregivers of children with disabilities are facing difficult choices this upcoming school year deciding between all the re-entry options such as in-person, blended, virtual, homebound, out-of-school environment, or homeschool learning. It is a very difficult decision and the information seems to change daily.

West Virginia Parent Training and Information have created a Back to School Planning Guide to help support your decision by weighing the risks and benefits of the different educational options for your child or youth with disabilities.

IDEA has not changed and there have been no granted waivers as of today. Your child or youth has the same rights and procedural safeguards. We are here if you have questions or would like to discuss any concerns.

Please check out our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/West-Virginia-Parent-Training-and-Information-100700473332309/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel By working together, we can make it a successful year for your child.

Brenda Lamkin,
Executive Director of WVPTI

[WVPTI Website](#)

Please check out our resources and information on the West Virginia Parent Training and Information's website.

<http://www.wvpti-inc.org/>

Covid – 19 Resources – Information for Parents who have children with disabilities- Check it out!





We Want to Help!

West Virginia Parent Training and Information is here to help you during this time when you as a parent are trying to decide the best option for your child(ren) with special needs. There are so many options to analyze and weigh the best choice for your child. You need to consider factors such as health concerns, work situation, and your child's needs. Some options the school systems have:

1. **In-person and Blended Instruction-** This choice may be regular hours, reduced days or hours or re-entry and then, students learning five days a week where the students attend school.

2. **Existing Virtual Options-** Counties may establish their own virtual program or partner with other counties or WVDE for virtual options.
3. **Homeschooling-** a parent elective for all students; if you choose this option all services provided by the schools are relinquished.
4. **Homebound** - available for those students who provide a physician's note. These students will receive instruction at home using a designated platform.
5. **Remote Learning** – is only an option if the Governor should require it. All school district's re-entry plans must be prepared to implement this option if necessary.
6. **Special Education Out-of-School Environment-** the student's specially designed instruction and related services are temporarily delivered in a choice of different settings: a non-school environment such as a public library, group home, or mental health center; a medical treatment facility/hospital; or the home.

As you decide and ponder, we understand that you want the best option for your special needs child. If you need assistance or information, please contact us.

"Every child deserves a **champion**, an adult who will **never give up**, on them, who understands the power of **connection**, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly **be**." Rita F. Pierson

West Virginia Parent Training and Information have an outline of a plan to return to school. This guide features specific worksheets to help parents and families as they prepare for how their children with disabilities to understand what services and supports they will need to be outlined in their child's IEP. There are additional resources from other agencies to

help you make decisions about returning to school. You need to check with each county's board of education to see the exact plan and options.



Step 1

Get a copy of your school district's back to school plan in your area.

* You might check the school's website or contact your school for this plan.



Step 2

Request a copy of your child's IEP and progress reports to review and prepare for a meeting with the school team about any regression and needed services.



Step 3

Tell about your concerns with the school team by discussing your child's future progress with the type and amount of services needed to meet their goals.



Step 4

Be prepared to discuss where and how your child's IEP will be provide and in what different learning environments or placement with prior written notice.

[Link for the Back To School Planning Guide from WVPTI Website](http://www.wvpti-inc.org/uploads/files/Back%20To%20School%20Planning%20Guide%202020.pdf)

Link: <http://www.wvpti-inc.org/uploads/files/Back%20To%20School%20Planning%20Guide%202020.pdf>

Link to additional resources:

West Virginia Schools Re-entry Toolkit COVID-19 Guidance by WV Department of Education and WV Department of Health and Human Resources: [WV Virginia Schools Re-entry Toolkit.pdf](#)

WV Department of Education Special Education Tips and Suggestions: [WV Department of Education Special Education Information.pdf](#)

WV Department of Education's Providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) During School Closure due to COVID-19 Pandemic Through Distance Learning Frequently Asked Questions: [Frequently Asked Questions.pdf](#)



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Call our Parent Engagement Specialists if you need information, we have regional trainers. Please call the main office at 304-472-5697 for assistance.



Need information? Questions?

We are here to help you.

Call 1-304-472-5697

or wvpti@aol.com

Hope to hear from you soon!

