

August 2024



PIECING IT TOGETHER

The Official Newsletter of WVPTI, Inc.

In this issue:

- ❖ Cartoons in American Sign Language
- ❖ Guiding the Journey
- ❖ News from the Director
- ❖ Back to School
- ❖ New OCR Resources
- ❖ WVPTI – Out and About

Value

WV PTI, Inc. affirms the rights of all individuals, with or without disabilities - to have an appropriate education and other needed services. In doing so, we value the intersectionality of diversity and equity of all.

Cartoons in American Sign Language

Bridge Multimedia has cartoons available in American Sign Language.



The ED-funded [Bridge Multimedia](#) now has some of children's favorite

Public Broadcasting Service [cartoons](#) are available in American Sign Language, thanks to ED's Office of Special Education Programs funding. Check out full episodes of "Arthur," "Work It Out Wombats!" and many other favorite cartoons.

BRIDGE MULTIMEDIA <https://bridgemultimedia.com/>

CARTOONS <https://pbskids.org/videos/american-sign-language-full-episodes>

GUIDING THE JOURNEY

A Transition Training Program For Parents



In partnership with the West Virginia Department of Education, Guideposts to Graduation, Guiding the Journey, A Transition Training Program for Parents, and WV Parent Training and Information will begin its second year in August 2024. This year, we will invite parents and caregivers of children and youth with disabilities between the ages of nine and twenty-one to attend.

The transition from school to adulthood for youth with unique needs can be challenging. It can be stressful to know where to begin or what the priorities should be. The training sessions, which include using Life course Tools, will provide you with the support you need to navigate this process. We invite you to be part of this Transition Training Program for Parents.

You may register at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FXZWGJ6> or reach out to us at 304-472-5697.



Brenda Lamkin, M.Ed.
WV PTI, Executive Director
Infant Family Specialist, IMH-
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Mission Statement

Our mission is to enhance education, inclusion, and transition opportunities for children and youth with disabilities and unique needs by empowering parents and caregivers to be effective self-advocates for their Children through training, information, resources, and building leadership skills.



News from the Director

Check out our Back to School newsletter. WV PTI provides training, information, and resources for parents and caregivers of children and youth with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. Please check out our new website for other resources: www.wvpti-inc.org



Asthma and Food Allergy Preparedness

With school soon to be in full swing. This is a great time to provide awareness and understanding of asthma and food allergies. If your child or youth needs support, please check out the following resources and your medical doctor.

504 Plans for Asthma <https://aafa.org/asthma/living-with-asthma/504-plans-for-asthma/>

Asthma Action Plan <https://aafa.org/asthma/asthma-treatment/asthma-treatment-action-plan/>

BREATHING EASIER in WV

https://www.cdc.gov/national-asthma-control-program/media/APHA-Asthma_WV_5.pdf

Food Allergies in Schools (Toolkit) <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/toolkit.htm>

Food Allergies Factsheet (Schools) (Parents) <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/food-allergies-factsheet.html>

School Clothing Assistance

The West Virginia Department of Human Services (DoHS), Bureau for Family Assistance (BFA), began accepting school clothing allowance applications on July 1, 2024, for eligible children enrolled in West Virginia schools.

Each eligible student will receive a \$200 benefit that may be used toward the purchase of appropriate school clothing or piece goods for families who sew clothing for their children.

School clothing allowance program recipients will receive an electronic benefit transfer (EBT) card instead of the traditional paper voucher. This system change allows for both online transactions and increased choice of vendors when purchasing school clothing or piece goods. The EBT card will operate like a debit card and can be used at any retailer that accepts EBT cash transactions. Parents or guardians of children in foster care will receive the school clothing allowance benefit as a check.

Families may apply online at wvpath.wv.gov. To request a paper application via mail, families may contact their local DoHS county office or the Office of Constituent Services' Customer Service Center at 1-877-716-1212. Applications must be received by July 31, 2024.

<https://dhr.wv.gov/News/2024/Pages/West-Virginia-Department-of-Human-Services-Accepting-School-Clothing-Allowance-Applications.aspx>

New OCR Resources

The U.S. Department of Education is at the forefront of providing new resources to support students with disabilities.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has announced three new resources that address the civil rights of students with disabilities, including sickle cell disease, epilepsy, and cancer. They educate students with disabilities, their parents and caregivers, and professionals and schools about their legal rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, what to do to remedy past discrimination, and more.

Sickle cell disease resource

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-sickle-cell-202406.pdf>

Epilepsy resource

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-epilepsy-202406.pdf>

Cancer resource

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocr-factsheet-cancer-202406.pdf>

WVPTI – Out and About

West Virginia Parent Training and Information was happy to participate in the Exceptional Possibilities of West Virginia, Inc. Parent Workshop on July 9, 2024, along with several other great presenters.





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