

PIECING IT TOGETHER

The Official Newsletter of WVPTI, Inc.

March 2025



***Celebrating 34 Years of Empowering
Families in West Virginia!***



WV Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WVPTI) is thrilled to celebrate 34 years of serving parents, caregivers, and youth with disabilities across West Virginia! For over three decades, we've worked alongside families, ensuring they have access to the resources, training, and support needed to navigate the special education system and advocate for their children. Join us in celebrating this milestone and continuing our mission to build stronger futures for West Virginia families!

SAVE THE DATE!!

2025 Virtual Wrightslaw
Special Education Law & Advocacy Conference

*Post-Secondary Transition
'Starting with the End in Mind'*

Let's learn together!

May 3, 2025
9:00 am - 4:30 pm, EST

Speaker: Pete Wright, Esq.

Registration includes the following Wrightslaw books:

- Special Education Law
- Post -Secondary Transition Planning
- Guardianship vs. Supported Decision-Making
- Effective Advocacy Tactics

Topics Covered:

- Special Education Law
- Post -Secondary Transition Planning
- Guardianship vs. Supported Decision-Making
- Effective Advocacy Tactics

Book covers shown: IEPs, Special Education Law, From Emotions to Advocacy

WVPTI is excited to host the highly anticipated **WrightsLaw Conference**, presented by special education law expert Pete Wright, Esq.! This powerful training will cover crucial topics for parents, educators, and advocates, including:

- ✓ **Special Education Law**
- ✓ **Post-Secondary Transition Planning**
- ✓ **Supported Decision-Making vs. Guardianship**
- ✓ **Effective Advocacy Strategies**
- ✓ **And much more!**

This is a must-attend event for families, professionals, and youth who want to be equipped with the knowledge and tools to advocate for better educational outcomes. Stay tuned for registration details!

Message from the Director



Brenda Lamkin, M.Ed.
WV PTI, Executive Director
Infant Family Specialist, IMH-E®

As the days grow longer and the promise of spring approaches, we at WV Parent Training and Information (WVPTI) are filled with renewed energy and hope. This season of growth and renewal reminds us of the incredible potential in every child, family, and community we serve.

Spring is a time of transformation in nature and the lives of those we work alongside. Families of children with disabilities often encounter challenges, but they also demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination. This spring, we are more committed than ever to providing the training, resources, and support needed to empower parents and caregivers as they advocate for their children's success.



We are excited to offer new workshops, training, educational opportunities, and resources to enhance parent leadership, build skills, and strengthen partnerships between families and professionals. As we work toward creating more inclusive communities for children, tweens, and young adults with disabilities, we look forward to furthering the collaborative efforts that allow all children to thrive in their schools, communities, and beyond.

GUIDING THE JOURNEY
*A Transition Training Program
For Parents*



Spring is a season for possibilities. Let's continue to work together to ensure that every child—regardless of their abilities—has the opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed. We invite you to join us on this journey as we plant the seeds for brighter futures.

Thank you for being so dedicated. We look forward to the continued progress we will make together this spring.

Mission Statement

West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc.'s mission is to empower and support parents and caregivers of children, youth, and young adults with disabilities, ages birth to 26. We strive to strengthen parent involvement through knowledge, advocacy, leadership, and participation in their children's education and well-being. Additionally, we provide guidance and resources to assist youth transitioning from high school to post-secondary education and independent living, ensuring they have the tools and support needed for a successful future.

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.

Upcoming Webinars – Learn, Engage, and Advocate!

We're bringing **multiple training opportunities** to families across West Virginia. Whether you are a parent, caregiver, educator, or self-advocate, these webinars will provide essential knowledge to help navigate the special education system and beyond and learn advocacy and leadership skills.

Get on board the Training Train!



- **Parents' Basic Rights to Special Education Process: (Understanding Your Rights & the Rights of Your Child)**
- **Effective Communication**
- **Rising Strong: Early Childhood Advocacy & Leadership for Families**
- **Understanding Procedural Safeguards in Special Education**
- **Path to IEP Success**
- **Guiding the Journey: *A Transition Training Program for Parents***
- **Own Your Future (for Youth): Self-Advocacy & Transition for Moving Forward**
- **AI 101 for Parents: Stay Safe, Stay Smart, Stay Informed!**

Our most requested training list...others available upon request.

Stay connected on social media and the website for dates and registration details!

We're Here for You – Individualized Support & Advocacy

WVPTI provides **ongoing one-on-one assistance** to families navigating special education, healthcare, and disability services. Our team offers:

- ✓ **Personalized guidance** for parents, caregivers, and youth with disabilities
- ✓ **Limited attendance at IEP, 504, and healthcare meetings** (based on protocol)
- ✓ **Resources and strategies** for self-advocacy and educational success

Our goal is to ensure that families feel empowered, heard, and equipped to advocate for their child's needs. If you need support, we're just a call or email away!

Join Us in Building a Brighter Future!

Your voice matters; together, we can make a difference in the lives of children and youth with disabilities across West Virginia. Whether you're a parent seeking support, a professional looking to expand your knowledge, or a youth eager to advocate for your future—we invite you to be part of our community.

♥ Stay Connected with WVPTI!

🌐 **Visit us online:** <http://www.wvpti-inc.org/>

✉ **Email us:** wvpti@aol.com



📱 **Follow us on social media:**

Thank you for being part of the WVPTI family. Meeting parents where they are! Here's to another year of advocacy, education, and empowerment!

#WVPTI #34YearsStrong #EmpowerAdvocateSucceed



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