

Maine's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Monthly Learning Series



Mission: Improve the health and quality of life for children with special health care needs and their families.

Transition to Public School: Guidance for Parents of Children with Disabilities & Special Healthcare Needs

October 7, 2025, 3:30-4:30pm

Please Register [Here](#)

The transition to public school is a big deal! While transitioning to school is an exciting time, it can also be a time filled with many unknowns especially for parents of children with disabilities or special healthcare needs. This training maps out the process of the transition, provides tools to help parents navigate special education, tips for IEP meetings, and resources to help your child adjust to the school community.





Dylan Campbell - Dylan uses his lived experience navigating the many systems of care alongside his family, in support of his siblings with disabilities. Since 2017 Dylan has worked with Maine Parent Federation, the state's Parent Training & Information as a Youth Coordinator and Parent Trainer. Since late 2021 Dylan has provided professional consultation to the Maine's Department of Education Office of Special Services & Inclusive Education and acted as one of two co-chairs for Maine's Executive Student Transition Committee. Dylan was also nationally recognized in 2022 as the recipient of the AMCHP Ryan Colburn Award for his work establishing youth-oriented programs and building connections with partners across the state of Maine and Northeast USA. Through commitment and collaboration, we can create an equitable and inclusive future for all.



Allison Wiest - Allison Wiest has been with Maine Parent Federation since 2017 acting as a Family Support Navigator to support families individually, and currently as a Parent Trainer providing information to families and professionals. Allison creates family-friendly materials and presents training to support and educate families of youth with disabilities and special health care needs on how to navigate the many systems of care. She also provides education to agencies and professionals that work with individuals with disabilities and collaborates with school systems to bring education and resources to students and their families. Some of the trainings topics include, Education is Special, Transition Planning, Supported Decision Making and Self Advocacy for youth.

She serves on the University of Maine Center for Inclusion and Disability Studies Community Advisory Committee as a parent of a child with a disability. She is a member of the Maine State Rehabilitation Council for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation representing Maine Parent Federation, the states parent training and information center. Allison is passionate about educating and empowering individuals and families to increase independence and better outcomes for the

future.

Personally, she is the mom of a thirteen-year-old boy with Autism and advocates daily to ensure his needs are met. She has created inclusive sport opportunities including Buddy Baseball and Unified Soccer in her community for youth with different abilities and continues to seek and provide more opportunities.

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Health Care Coordinator provides a unique resource for families, providers, and communities. The goal is to assist families and providers in finding services that will help the child or youth acquire optimal health, development, well-being, and the best quality of life.

To learn more please visit us at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mch/cshn/>

Email: MCH.CDC@maine.gov

Phone: 207-287-5357

TTY users call Maine relay 711

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