



Special Education Family Engagement Report

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Activities completed in 2025-26:

Parent Portal:

- VA IEP initiated the Parent Portal for all school divisions. The Parent Portal allows parents to review all of their child's finalized documents in one place using just their email address and phone number.

Updated Progress Reports:

- Parents receive progress reports quarterly on their child's individual goals. Progress Track allowed teachers to provide parents with a graph of progress. All progress reports are included in the Parent Portal and reminders were shared in the division newsletter and by case managers.

Family Feedback sessions:

- December, 2025: Summit, Tall Oaks
- January 2026: Greenbrier, CHS, Sunrise
- February 2026: CMS
- March, 2026: CHS, Jackson Via, Trailblazer, three virtual sessions (lunch, afternoon, and evening)

The special education leadership team met with families to hear their perspective on a summary document, provide resources to build their understanding, and hear honest feedback about their experience with the special education process. Feedback from families indicated that family engagement at the elementary schools is strong. We learned that the Parentsquare feed can be overwhelming and the special education newsletter sometimes got missed amongst lots of other division messages. Families indicated that sometimes IEPs are difficult to understand and a summary document would be helpful. As we engaged with families of older students, concerns were raised about it taking too long for services to begin at the start of the school year and difficulty knowing who the point of contact at the school is. Families shared that transition to Walker, CMS, and CHS was hard and additional information in advance would be helpful. Additionally, families advocated for ways for families to be a resource to other families when learning to navigate the IEP process.

Family Fun Nights:

- September, 2025: Family Fun Fitness Night
- January, 2026: Family Fun Cooking Night
- February, 2026: Family Fun Night and Feedback Session on Inclusive Action Plans



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC):

- September, 2025
- November, 2025
- January, 2026
- March, 2026
- May, 2026

Transition Night

- April, 2026 CMS hosted transition night for rising 6th, 7th, and 9th graders. A collaboration between special education and school counseling provided students and families an opportunity to learn more about moving to middle school and high school.



Newsletter

- A monthly Parentsquare newsletter to families of students with disabilities included:
 - Information about upcoming events in the schools or community including sensory friendly theatre, parent resource center events, and adaptive programming from the YMCA and Parks and Rec.
 - Information from Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center including helpful flyers and tips.
 - Opportunities for support from the Parent Resource Center.

Better Together Playdates, organized by SEAC parents

- May, June and August SEAC parents facilitated playdates at Tall Oaks and Forest Hills for families with neurodivergent children. Hosted by families, these events are supported by the CCS United PTO and Charlottesville City Schools.



Parent Resource Center:

- Parent support groups, library office hours, and workshops.
- March, 2026: Life After High School Conference & Resource Fair
- March, 2026: Family Partners in Special Education (rescheduled from October)

CCS is a part of the Piedmont Regional Education Program's (PREP) Parent Resource Center (PRC). The PRC serves parents of children with disabilities or special needs and promotes partnerships among parents, educators, and community resources. The PRC provides free access to information, workshops, and resources to support the success of all students, especially those with learning challenges, special needs, and disabilities. You can also call for individualized consultations at no charge.

<https://piedmonteducation.org/parent-resource-center/>

Activities for 2026-27 School Year:

Continue:

- Parent Portal including new document translation languages!
 - Virginia IEP documents are now available to be translated in twenty-five languages in addition to English: Amharic, Catalan, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), French, German, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Pashto, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Sudanese, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.
- Family Fun Nights
 - This year's Family Fun Cooking nights are already printed in the calendar and we are continuing our partnership with the YMCA for use of their community kitchen. We will partner with the PRC to offer Family Fitness Night and Family Building Night.
- Transition Night
 - This year's Transition Night is already printed in the calendar! We will refine the content based on feedback.
- Newsletter
 - A newsletter will continue to be available to all parents of students with a disability.
- Partnership with Parent Resource Center

Adjust:

- Progress reports with graphs will continue however we will explore different delivery methods.
 - Currently it is not possible to "batch" progress reports from VA IEP which prevents the use of Secure Document Delivery in Parentsquare.
- Family Feedback Sessions - regular feedback sessions will be offered with a variety of times and in person and virtual options.
- SEAC will continue on a new day, later time and new location. All SEAC meetings will occur at the Brooks Family YMCA at 5:30pm. The day was changed to Tuesday.

Start:

- Parents will receive notification of their child's case manager before meet and greets and a summary document of their child's IEP at meet and greets. The goal is for all returning students with disabilities to

receive notification of their case manager on Monday, August 3rd. Transfer students may not receive this information until all records are received.

CONNECT PARENT PORTAL

New for 2025-2026

Connect acts as a virtual filing cabinet, providing you remote, secure access to your student's documentation in Virginia IEP. Connect also allows parents to apply consent or sign documents that require a parent response. The Virginia Department of Education is enhancing Virginia IEP with the parent portal for all participating school divisions in 2025.



NAVIGATION



- My Info - Here, you can view the information the school has on file for you. If updates are needed, contact your child's school.
- To Do List - Documents awaiting your response will appear here. Click the hyperlink to view documents and use the pencil icon to apply a response.
- Completed Actions - Documents you have already responded to will appear here.
- Service Info - Your student's special education eligibility information, services, and dates of service will appear here.
- Documents - You may view any of your child's documents here. Adjust the school year selection to choose which documents you would like to view.
- Case Manager - Information for your child's case manager will appear here.

ACCESS

- ✓ Welcome email on 8/11/2025
- ✓ Search for an email from NoReply-VirginiaIEP@doe.virginia.gov
- ✓ Request the hyperlink from the case manager.
- ✓ Bookmark the hyperlink