



Contact Info...

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You are receiving this Newsletter because you were a CAPSEF member within the past year. If you haven't already continued your membership, please do so to continue receiving this valuable content!

Recap of our most recent event...

On November 8, CAPSEF hosted a panel of Connecticut State Department of Education officials and representative private school directors to explore the question of how we can provide information about the effectiveness of our programs while acknowledging the diversity of students we serve and range of services we provide.

Challenges identified include:

- Length of stay,
- Student attendance/truancy,
- Standardized measures,
- Cognitive, social, language and other deficits.

Public school systems have access to a wide range of data on student performance; private approved schools are not part of that system but the potential for access was raised.

There was consensus that our separate programs are too unique to compare to each other. It was suggested that goals contained in School Improvement Plans or embedded in SEED evaluation plans might yield information about a school's progress on their priorities.

Using progress on IEPs was also discussed but discounted because the way objectives are often are not measurable as written. Specific indicators such as graduation rates, access to the arts, stakeholder feedback, social skills, coping strategies and time-on-task were discussed. Student engagement in particular was suggested by a panel member as an important indicator – if only we could define it and measure it reliably.

For detailed minutes of the forum, please go to our website:

www.capsef.org

Get Involved!

If you are interested in working with the CAPSEF team on any of the following committees, please contact Allyson Deckman at info@capsef.org

*Legislative
Committee*

*Professional
Development
Committee*

*Membership
Committee*

*Communications
Committee*

Finance Committee

*Strategic
Planning*

Connecticut's Legislative Session

Connecticut will begin its new legislative session January 9th 2019, but it is not too late to get prepared! We encourage you to contact your local State Senators and Representatives to let them hear your concerns regarding education and the challenges we face as Approved Private Special Education Facilities. Members from both your own home district, and the district your school is located, should be happy to hear your voice.

Ideas include:

- Invite them to visit your school
- Call
- Write
- Engage your students in the process!

If you do not know who your legislators are, please visit:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Save the Dates: Upcoming CAPSEF Events

January 17, 2019 – Treating Problem Sexualized Behavior –
Evidence Based Practice
8:00 – 10:00 AM
Raymond Hill School – New Britain

February 14, 2019 – Meaningful Outcomes: Part 2 – Panel
Discussion
8:00 – 10:00 AM
Oak Hill School- Hartford

March 20, 2019 – Annual Professional Development Conference
7:30 AM– 3:30 PM
Farmington Marriot

April 25, 2019- Preparing for State Mandates
8:00 – 10:00 AM
Raymond Hill School – New Britain

Don't Forget! Services and Benefits of Belonging to CAPSEF include:

- Aggressive lobbying efforts at the State Capitol in Hartford, CT
- Access to our website (www.capsef.org) and links to hot topics in special education
- Leadership mentoring
- Consulting for the State Department of Education approval process
- Technology support and training opportunities
- Annual conference and professional development opportunities (including CEUs)
- Networking and information sessions on current topics and issues (i.e. Restraint and Seclusion, Suspension, Motivation, ED/LD Guidelines, Medicaid and Certification)



Who we are...

CAPSEF is an association of private schools which provide quality, cost effective, special education and related services to the special needs children and adolescents (birth-21) of CT who benefit from individualized academic, behavioral, social and vocational programs designed to enable them to succeed in the latest restrictive environment.