



Connecticut Association of
Private Special Education Facilities



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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!

CAPSEF's Annual Professional Development Conference

Save the Date: March 18th, 2020
Hartford/Farmington Marriott

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“CAPSEF”

Recap of our most recent event...

On October 3rd, 2019, Oak Hill hosted a Membership Forum for our members on “Hot Topics” for Approved Privates. After soliciting feedback on the issues most important to our members, we held a lengthy discussion on the topic of contracts.

As a member, if you couldn't make it, here are some of the important notes:

- Many of our members cannot sign contracts “as is.” Edits are often required and districts tend to accept strikethroughs.
- It is the responsibility of the district to provide the contract. Some private schools are offering a contract or “template,” but then the district must consider it “theirs” if they elect to use it.
- The State will not be providing a contract template. Many districts share similar language, but the lack of uniformity means that we have to individually evaluate each contract.
- There are concerns about documenting special services, with some contracts requiring the specific names of providers. Our consensus is that this would be difficult to ensure with staff turnover, so many schools are striking out this provision and replacing it with the type of service.
- Be mindful of contract language containing “participating” as this is not defined. If found, you may want to strike through and provide more clear language.
- When asked to provide the specific amount for tuition for the entire year on the contract, some schools are striking through and attaching the rate schedule and/or tuition notification letter.
- Lastly, there are some contracts that are requesting evaluations done in the spring to plan for the next school year. Of course, these are PPT decisions and require parent/guardian consent.

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*

Recap (cont.):

In addition, we received a succinct legislative session summary from June and engaged in a brief conversation about Teacher Retirement Board eligibility. Past President, John Mattas, encouraged a “divide and conquer” approach where we all enter into discussions with our respective legislators. While they may be unlikely to include our educational staff in an already poorly funded pension plan, our best hope to convince legislators is for them to hear it from their constituents.

Additional Save the Dates: Upcoming Events

November 7th, 2019: Membership Forum

State Standardized Assessments

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Oak Hill School, Hartford

January 9th, 2020: Membership Forum (Snow Date 1/10/20)

Social Emotional Curriculum

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Oak Hill School, Hartford

February 6th, 2020: Membership Forum (Snow Date 2/7/20)

State Required Outcomes in the Approved Private Environment

8:00 – 10:00 AM

Oak Hill School, Hartford

Membership Forums are FREE to members!

For more information, or to register for a Membership Forum session, please reach out to info@capsef.org.

And of course...

March 18th, 2020

Annual Professional Development Conference

7:30pm-3:30pm

Hartford-Farmington Marriott

Registration and Curriculum Information Coming Soon

Connecticut's Legislative Session

It's never too early to start thinking about our upcoming CT Legislative Session which begins February 12th, 2020.

Here are a few tips to consider:

- Know your representative --- Personal contact is powerful (Senate, House, local). Invite them to your school, ask them to read to students, enjoy a cup of coffee, let them see your program as an asset to their district and you as a leader with expertise.
- General Assembly --- cga.ct.gov = Excellent Resource. Timely information in minutes. You can follow bills – content, status, sponsors, and testimony. You can track any committee work – such as the Education Committee Meetings, hearings. You will know which committee members are essential to your issues.
- Sit in on an Education. Committee Meeting; take in a Public Hearing; watch a broadcast from the Capitol; it can be worthwhile.
- Keep all verbal and written communications and testimony clear and concise --- need to represent that which is most important. Try to limit your priorities to the top three or four; fewer is better. Written communication should fit on one page for any presentation.

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

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



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.

Interested in Joining our Executive Board?

Please send a note of interest to info@capsef.org and we will reach out with more information!

