

FEBRUARY

E - C O N N E C T I O N S 2 0 2 1



How a Section 504 Can Help Your Student



Section 504 and Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are two service options for children with disabilities.

A student may be found eligible for accommodations under Section 504 *if the student has intellectual or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more of a student's major life activities that impact education.*

A group of people knowledgeable about your student, including you, the parent will help determine if a 504 is right for your child. Under Section 504, schools can make necessary accommodations, helping your child benefit from classroom instruction and their overall educational experience.

Contact your school district's Section 504 Coordinator if you have questions regarding specific Section 504 services.

More information regarding Section 504 can be found in the following links

[Utah Parent Center](#)

[Utah State Board of Education](#)

Rare Disease Awareness Day

SHOW YOUR STRIPES[®]



ON RARE DISEASE DAY[®]
FEBRUARY 28TH

The diagnosis of a rare disease affects 300 million people in the world. That is roughly 1 in 20 people who will be diagnosed with a rare disease during their lifetime. Every year since 2008, people in 100 countries around the world celebrate Rare Disease Day. This day aims to bring awareness to the general public, policy makers and health professionals about issues impacting this community. This year, worldwide events will take place on February 28th, 2021.

Find out how you can get involved by going to the following links:

- [Rare Action Utah](#)
- [Rare Disease Day](#)
- [Genetic and Rare Disease Information Center](#)
- [Medical Home Portal](#)

Scan QR Code for *FREE* UPC February Workshops



SCAN ME

The Utah Parent Center offers free classes covering a wide range of topics. Parents, students and professionals are invited to attend any of the classes on the events calendar. While some classes may have some specific information about a regional area or school, or district everyone is welcome.

Book Study Opportunity for Parents

GRIT:

THE POWER OF PASSION AND PERSEVERANCE

The Utah State Board of Education Special Education Section and the Utah Parent Center will facilitate a book study for parents of children with disabilities of ***“Grit, the Power of Passion and Perseverance”*** by Angela Duckworth.

Register: <http://bit.ly/3r3Ejpp>

Tuesday Evenings
on Zoom

April 6, 13, 20
7:00-8:00 PM

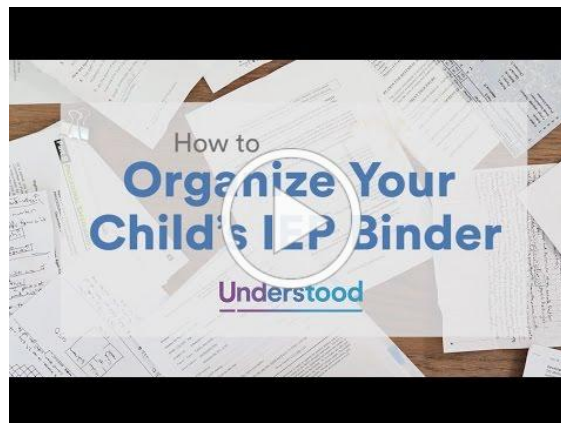
Receive a **Free** copy
of the Book and
Study Guide
Handouts for Each
Discussion

Hurry: Registration
closes March 18!



IEP Organization Ideas for Parents or Guardians

Practicing good organizational skills when your child is receiving special education services can make a difference in the way you communicate with your IEP team. Keeping a binder of your child's IEP information can help you prepare for a meeting, help you stay on top of your child's progress and communicate effectively with the



professionals who are servicing your child's IEP.

There are many ways to start organizing your information, and finding the method that works best for you is the trick. It is never too late to get started.

Click on the links provided below to learn more about the benefits of organization and how to get started.

- [Organization IEP Binder](#)
- [Keeping Good Records](#)
- [Keeping Special Ed on Track](#)

Disability College Supports



In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed. This act requires schools to include those with disabilities, giving students access to educational resources and benefit from college programs. Many college programs are involved in efforts to make Financial Aid and scholarships available to those with disabilities. Additionally, many private organizations are awarding scholarship money to help those students, enabling them to rise above their Intellectual, mental, medical and physical challenges.

Students in Middle and High school can start preparing now for their college experience by aligning their IEP transition goals to gain foundational skills needed for their future.

It is important to note that your child's IEP will not transfer to college. However, your student can still receive accommodations if they are found eligible, and if that specific college receives federal funding. If so, then they must ensure equal access through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Support Links:

- [Thinkcollege.net:](#) Provides families of those with Intellectual Disabilities resources including, IEP goal suggestions, parent tips and learning plans, as well as information on how to apply for colleges.
- [College Programs for Students in Utah with Disabilities](#)
- [What to know about college disability services](#)
- [Parenting Special Needs Magazine:](#) Provides great information on types of educational programs and how to help your child prepare for their future.

Noteworthy Scholarships to Apply for Now!



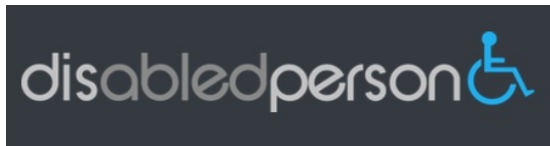
Microsoft has opened the applications for their disAbility Scholarship. This is an opportunity for **high school seniors** who are interested in careers in technology. This scholarship will be awarded to promising high school seniors who plan to attend a vocational

or academic college and have a financial need. The amount of this renewable scholarship to be awarded is \$5,000 per year, up to \$20,000 total, which is paid through the Seattle Foundation on behalf of the disAbility Employee Resource Group (ERG) at Microsoft to the recipient's school's Financial Aid Office.

Completed applications are due by March 1st.

For requirements and information on how to apply, please visit the link below.

[Apply Here](#)



disABLEDperson, Inc. Announced their Spring 2021 National Scholarship Competition for College Students with Disabilities. In order to qualify, the

student must be enrolled in a 2 or 4 year accredited college and they cannot currently be in high school. The awarded scholarship amount is \$2,000 and an essay of no more than 1000 words is to accompany the application.

Completed applications are due February 28, 2021 and the winner will be announced on March 15.

The essay prompt is: **If you could give advice to your younger self about your disability, what would you say?**

[Application Support Here](#)

Self-Determination Supports and Upcoming Virtual Conference

Teaching our children with disabilities to make decisions for themselves is part of the process in helping them live more independent and engaging lives as adults. Self determination is the thought that your children with disabilities are entitled to the same rights and opportunities to direct their own lives as those without disabilities. We want our children with disabilities to become contributing and valued members of their communities. By teaching them how to advocate their

Learn how these skills can be supported by clicking the links below.

- [What is Self-Determination](#)
- [Opening Doors to Self-Determination Skills Guidebook](#)
- [Self-Determination for Children and Young Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind](#)
- [Self-Determination Position Statement](#)

desires to others, we are helping them do just that.

Your child is never too young to learn the skill of Self Advocacy. Family members, teachers and others who work with your child can help promote the skills of Self Determination and Self Advocacy by encouraging them to make their own choices, problem solve situations, and acquire skills needed for their future.

- [The Awesome Mary Show on how to be a self advocate](#)

Don't miss an upcoming conference opportunity (flier listed below under conference announcements) hosted by the Utah Development Disabilities Council specifically on the topic of self-determination. Registration opens up February 15th.



Employment Series Part 2- Understanding "Pre-ETS" Services

It's never too early to start thinking about successful employment. It is a process and it takes many steps to achieve success in finding the right job. One of the first steps is identified in getting involved in what we know as Pre-Ets.

Pre-Ets is short for Pre-Employment Transition Services, and are part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which expands the population of students with disabilities who may receive services from Vocational Rehabilitation agencies. It requires VR agencies to provide services to those who are transitioning from school to postsecondary education and employment, and also requires collaboration between the VR agencies and the Local Educational Agencies (LEAs).

In keeping with those requirements, there are five service areas that are identified as being critical for pre-employment



Students in Utah between the ages of 14-21 have the opportunity to participate in formal Pre-Ets programs if they have made it part of their transition IEP to do so. There are a number of contracted agencies that are providing Pre-Ets services throughout the state. These services can also be

transition success:

1. Job discovery experiences
2. Work-based learning experiences
3. Information on postsecondary educational opportunity, including higher education and technical training
4. Job skills training, including social skills and independent living skills training
5. Self-advocacy training

provided in school as part of the special education curriculum.

A list of the Pre-Ets programs currently in place in Utah can be found [here](#), along with a summary of suggested Pre-Ets activities to consider for any student.

The Transition University project is funded by the Utah Development Disabilities Council and is supported, in part by grant number 1901UTSCDD-02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

Conference Announcements & Research Opportunities



SAVE THE DATE



Utah Developmental
Disabilities Council.

PRESENTS

Virtual Leadership: Unpacking Advocacy in a Digital World

A conference to help self-determined
People think about the ways in which
their voices can be heard.

May 5, 2021 1-3 pm

May 6, 2021 1-3 pm

May 7, 2021 1-3 pm

May 8, 2021 10am-12 pm

This Year's Conference will be held on
Google Meet

Registration available February 15, 2021 at:
www.utahddcouncil.org

***Must be 18 or older to attend.**

Conference is Free but registration is limited

Registration includes fun activities and some cool gadgets

ENGAGING FAMILIES IN EDUCATION

Virtual Parent-Teacher Conference
for Families With Children who are Deaf, DeafBlind, & Hard of Hearing



Partnering with Utah Schools for the Deaf, Utah Parent Center, and Parent Infant Program, we will be hosting an upcoming conference for Parents and Teachers with Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing children.

Topics:

- Educational interpreters in K-12 settings
- Panel with people from diverse backgrounds
- Teacher licensing and certification process
- And MORE!

Registration is required in advance.
jobs.utah.gov/usor/dhh/events/northern.html
Please register by Monday, March 8, 2021

For more information,
contact Pamela Mower at pmower@utah.gov

March 12, 2021
5 pm - 7 pm
&
March 13, 2021
9 am - 3 pm



For more information and to request ADA accommodations, contact 801-657-5200.
DSDHH is a part of the Department of Workforce Services, Utah State Office of Rehabilitation.
Equal Opportunity Employment Program



**PARTICIPANTS
NEEDED!**

Are you an
adolescent
or young
adult with
autism?

What has
COVID-19
been like for
you?



Consider participating in our virtual research study exploring the experiences of secondary school-aged students with an autism spectrum disorder during COVID-19

Participants Must:

- Be between ages 14-18
- Have an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis
- Have been enrolled in secondary education (i.e., high school) during the 2019-2020 school year
- Have access to technology to allow for virtual communication (i.e. cellular device or computer with auditory and video capabilities)
- Have a parent or other caregiver who is also willing to participate

If Interested:

Contact Kayleigh Brennan at

- (385) 202-3873
- covidexperiencestudy@gmail.com

Compensation provided!

\$25 giftcard for completion of
the study



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
College of Education

Utah School for the Blind

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 26th

9AM - 11:30AM

**VIRTUAL BLIND
PARENT CONFERENCE**

TOPICS: Accessible Technology Devices, Expanded Core Curriculum, Self-Esteem, Adjusting with Blindness, Community Resources, Utah Parent Center Services

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!

Advocacy Corner

The 2021 Legislative Session is in full swing. In Utah, there are various organizations that are interested in the outcomes of legislation affecting people with disabilities. Getting involved with these organizations through social media or newsletters is a great way to stay up to date on legislation that might affect you or your loved ones with a disability. The Disability Law Center is a great resource for information on proposed legislation. They either support or oppose legislation from the policy perspective that “Utahns with disabilities have the right and responsibility to fully participate in society.” Get up to date information by clicking [here](#) to access the Center’s bill tracker.



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