

Teaching Children with Disabilities to Read: Legal Tools and Learning Strategies  
ELC Buddies Training  
January 16, 2008

## **Useful Websites & Reading Resources**

### **IDEA – Statute and Regulations**

- IDEA 2004 statute can be found at: <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cstatute%2C>; see also <http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/law.htm> (provides a summary of the changes to the statute)
- IDEA 2006 regulations can be found at: <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cregs%2C> or <http://www.wrightslaw.com/idea/law/FR.v71.n156.pdf>
- PA special education regulations can be found at:  
<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter14/chap14toc.html> (Ch. 14) and  
<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter711/chap711toc.html> (Ch. 711 – Charter Schools)

### **Early Intervening Services (EIS)/Response to Intervention (RtI)**

- Questions and Answers on Response to Intervention (RTI) and Early Intervening Services (EIS) (January 2007) prepared by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education
  - <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cdynamic%2CQaCorner%2C8%2C>
- IDEA Regulations: Early Intervening Services: A topic brief prepared by OSERS
  - <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cdynamic%2CTopicalBrief%2C8%2C>
- Information from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) on Early Intervening Services and RtI:
  - <http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/files/RTI/EIS-RtI-Ftsht.pdf> (explains similarities and differences between EIS and RtI)
- “RTI and Reading: Response to Intervention in a Nutshell” Dickman, G. Emerson (2006)  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/14596>
- “Response to Intervention: Ten Questions Parents Should Ask” (2006)  
[http://www.nclld.org/images/stories/downloads/parent\\_center/rti\\_final.pdf](http://www.nclld.org/images/stories/downloads/parent_center/rti_final.pdf) (from the National Center for Learning Disabilities)
- “A Parent’s Guide to Response-to-Intervention”  
[http://www.nclld.org/images/stories/downloads/parent\\_center/rti\\_final.pdf](http://www.nclld.org/images/stories/downloads/parent_center/rti_final.pdf) (from the National Center for Learning Disabilities)
- “Responsiveness to Intervention and Learning Disabilities: A Report Prepared by the National Joint Commission on Learning Disabilities” (June 2005) <http://www.lidaamerica.org/pdf/rti2005.pdf>

## **Independent Educational Evaluations – General Information**

- Education Law Center’s fact sheet entitled “Getting Your Child An Independent Educational Evaluation” at <http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads/english/dis-Getting%20Your%20Child%20an%20Independent%20Educational%20Evaluation%2008-07.pdf>
- Education Law Center’s “Sample Letter Requesting an Independent Evaluation” at <http://www.elc-pa.org/pubs/downloads/english/dis-Sample%20Letter%20Requesting%20Independent%20Evaluation%2012-06.pdf>
- What to Expect From an Evaluation by Marianne S. Meyer, M.A. <http://www.fetaweb.com/help/eval.expect.meyer.htm> (This article is reprinted from the "Parent to Parent" column, in Perspectives (Fall 2003), published by The International Dyslexia Association)

## **Independent Educational Evaluations – How to Find an Evaluator**

- Parents can contact the Pennsylvania International Dyslexia Association branch for referrals for evaluators for children with reading difficulties. Link to PA IDA branch is: <http://www.pbida.org/> (contains a list of professionals who can help).
- Directory of Professional Resources in the Delaware Valley for Children with Learning Disabilities: <http://www.ldinfo.org/professionals/index.html> (includes questions to ask professionals)
- Yellow pages for Kids: <http://www.yellowpagesforkids.com/help/pa.htm> (includes names of evaluators)

## **Writing Measurable IEP Goals – Resources**

- For IEP strategies, see “Writing Better Goals and Short-Term Objectives”: <http://www.knpd.org/mittsfita/dokumenti%5cbettergoals.pdf>
- Article entitled “Individualized Education Program (IEP) Goals – The Basics” at <http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=296>
- *From Gobbledygook to Clearly Written Annual IEP Goals*, Barbara D. Bateman, Ph.D., J.D. (available on Amazon.com)
- *Better IEPs: How to Develop Legally Correct and Educational Useful Programs (4th ed.)*, Barbara D. Bateman and Mary Anne Linden (available on Amazon.com)

## **Research-Based Reading Interventions – More Information**

- Florida Center for Reading Research: [www.fcrr.org](http://www.fcrr.org) (great one-stop site for learning about various research-based reading interventions and includes information about interventions for struggling readers)
- What Works Clearinghouse (established by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences): <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/> (collects, screens, and identifies studies of effectiveness of scientifically based educational interventions, including programs, products, practices, and policies)

- Best Evidence Encyclopedia (from Johns Hopkins University): [www.bestevidence.org](http://www.bestevidence.org)
- Oregon Reading First Center: Review of Comprehensive Reading Programs  
[http://reading.uoregon.edu/curricula/or\\_rfc\\_review\\_2.php](http://reading.uoregon.edu/curricula/or_rfc_review_2.php)
- Texas Center for Reading & Language Arts: [www.texasreading.org](http://www.texasreading.org)
- Center on Instruction: [www.centeroninstruction.org](http://www.centeroninstruction.org)

## **Assistive Technology – Useful Websites & Articles**

- Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology (PIAT):  
<http://disabilities.temple.edu/programs/assistive/piat/index.htm> Voice: 800-204-PIAT (7428), in state or TTY: 866-268-0579, in state (PIAT provides short-term device loans, device demonstrations, technical assistance, and other services “to enhance the lives of all Pennsylvanians with disabilities, older Pennsylvanians, and their families, through access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services, which allow for choice, control and independence at home, work, school, play, and in their neighborhoods.”)
- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN):  
<http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/supportingstudents/AssistiveTechnology.aspx> (operates a short-term loan program for AT devices and also provides training and support; its website contains a list of AT consultants in each IU and in the 3 PaTTAN locations)
  - See., e.g., <http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us/files/Handouts07/AT121107.pdf> (presentation from 12/11/07 entitled “Focusing on AT: Tools for Struggling Writers”)
- Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) <http://www.patf.us/> (is a non-profit organization that provides low-interest loans to people with disabilities and older adults so that they can buy the assistive technology devices and services they need.) 888-744-1938 (voice/toll-free/TTY)
- Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic: [www.rfb.org](http://www.rfb.org) (provides digital recordings for many types of written materials, including textbooks, when access to print materials is difficult due to a vision impairment or learning disability; RFB&D’s Philadelphia Unit is located in King of Prussia and serves Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties (but may go elsewhere in PA) with teacher training and technical assistance, and other services.
- PowerPoint presentation by Pam Cook, M.Ed., entitled “Reading and Writing with Technology” available at: [http://www.abcadvocacy.net/The\\_Literacy\\_Imperative.htm](http://www.abcadvocacy.net/The_Literacy_Imperative.htm)
- Assistive Technology: A Parent’s Guide by SchwabLearning.org:  
[http://www.schwablearning.org/pdfs/e\\_guide\\_at.pdf?date=3-13-06&status=new](http://www.schwablearning.org/pdfs/e_guide_at.pdf?date=3-13-06&status=new) (excellent 21-page guide for parents about AT for children with learning disabilities)
- Article entitled “Learning Disabilities and Assistive Technology” from Georgia’s AT resource center:  
<http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/read.htm> and <http://www.gatfl.org/ldguide/write.htm>.

## **Additional Excellent Reading Links**

- Sue Whitney Heath – Wrightslaw Research Editor, has excellent info on reading.  
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/heath/dyh.index.htm#read>
- 4 Great Definitions About Reading: <http://www.wrightslaw.com/nclb/4defs.reading.htm>
- Learning about the School’s Approach to Reading Instruction (includes questions to ask teacher)  
<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=361>
- E-ssential Guide: A Parent’s Guide to Reading Basics <http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=751>
- How Do I Know a Good Early Reading Program When I See One?  
<http://www.ed.gov/print/parents/read/resources/goodprogram.html>
- “Doing Your Homework: What are the Criteria for Remedial Reading Programs?”  
<http://www.wrightslaw.com/heath/read.remed.criteria.htm>
- Top 10 Things You Should Know About Reading  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/358?theme=print>
- Waiting Rarely Works: Late Bloomer Usually Just Wilt  
<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/11360?theme=print>
- How to Know if Your Child’s Making Progress toward IEP Goals  
<http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=1132>
- Hasbrouck & Tindal Oral Reading Fluency Norms  
<http://www.readnaturally.com/pdf/oralreadingfluency.pdf>
- DIBELS Risk Level Chart  
[http://www.fcrr.org/science/pdf/kosanovich/risk\\_levels1.pdf](http://www.fcrr.org/science/pdf/kosanovich/risk_levels1.pdf)
- Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening  
<http://www.pde.state.pa.us/k12/lib/k12/Reading.pdf>
- Effective Reading Instruction Graphic: <http://www.justreadnow.com/fiveblocks.pdf>
- Common Classroom Accommodations for Reading  
<http://www.dys-add.com/teach.html#classroomaccom>
- IDA Fact Sheets on Dyslexia and Related Language-Based Learning Differences  
<http://www.interdys.org/FactSheets.htm>
- “Should My Child Be Evaluated for Dyslexia?” — An Excerpt from Overcoming Dyslexia by Dr. Sally Shaywitz: <http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.aspx?r=733>

## **Other Useful Websites for Information about Reading & Learning Disabilities**

- [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org) (Reading Rockets: Launching Young Readers)
- [www.SchwabLearning.org](http://www.SchwabLearning.org) (SchwabLearning.org: A Parent's Guide to Helping Kids with Learning Difficulties)
- [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org)
- [www.dys-add.com](http://www.dys-add.com) (website entitled "Bright Solutions for Dyslexia, LLC")
- [www.ncl.org](http://www.ncl.org) (website of the National Center for Learning Disabilities).