



Guilford County Partnership for Exceptional Children



GRAPEVINE

Submissions for EC Voice

If you would like to submit information to the EC Voice please contact Carla Sutton:

☎ (336) 676-4403 or via email
✉ suttonc@bellsouth.net

All submissions are due by the 15th of the month before printing. The EC Voice is distributed during the school year, September through May (no October issue in 2008).

Become an EC Advocate

Exceptional Children (EC) advocacy is a vital part of the Guilford County Council of PTA's mission to support equitable, quality education for every child.

Our goals: **(1)** to have an EC advocate at every school who can answer questions, suggest resources, and communicate information; and **(2)** to encourage EC students and their families to participate and become involved in school and PTA events.

If you, or someone you know, would like more information on becoming an EC advocate at your school, please contact Carla Sutton, Rebecca Rice, or Erica Kuepferle below.

Your EC Contacts

Erika Kuepferle - *EC Advocacy*

☎ (336) 638-2107
✉ angelsx2@triad.rr.com

Tequilla Washington - *EC Communications*

☎ (910) 286-4528
✉ tequillawashington@yahoo.com

Carla Sutton - *EC Training*

☎ (336) 676-4403
✉ suttonc@bellsouth.net

Rebecca Rice - *EC Training*

☎ (336) 379-0361
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THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS/STATEMENTS/PROGRAMS ARE NOT ENDORSED BY GCS NOR DO THEY REPRESENT THE DISTRICT'S POSITION OR POLICY.

The E.C. Voice

Volume 5, Issue #3

January 2009

GCS Psychological Services

Guilford County Schools (GCS) employ school psychologists to provide psychological services to the 67 elementary, 22 middle, and 26 high schools in the school system (Guilford County Schools, 2008).

The Department of Psychological Services is responsible for working together with teachers, administrators, and other school personnel, as well as parents in order to foster the academic, social, and emotional growth of our students. GCS school psychologists provide consultation, evaluation, intervention, prevention, training, and research and planning services to each school they serve.

In Guilford County, most full time psychologists are assigned to serve three schools. Each psychologist has received extensive training in both psychology and education. Furthermore, in addition to holding NC school psychology licensure, many of GCS school psychologists are nationally certified by the National School Psychology Certification Board (NSPCB).

What is a School Psychologist?

School psychology is a specialty within the field of psychology that focuses on delivering psychological services within school settings. One job function is providing evaluations to assist educators and parents determine the educational needs and special program eligibility of students. However, there are many other important roles associated with the profession, as well. These include consultation with teachers and parents about academic and behavioral concerns, supporting educators with data-based decision making, helping to identify instruction that is effective for individual students, developing and evaluating new educational programs, and occasional short-term counseling.

Furthermore, school psychologists consider diversity and child development as they work in their various roles. They also strive to strengthen relationships between parents and the school community.

GCS school psychologists play an increasing role in supporting the success of regular classrooms by working with teachers and parents to develop custom interventions plans. These plans address specific student needs and consist of interventions proven to be effective. In this capacity, the school psychologist's aim is to assist parents, teachers, and others identify the nature of students' academic, social, and emotional difficulties and to intervene with these difficulties early on in order to prevent future issues.

School psychologists understand that all children can learn when given the necessary support. In addition, school psychologists assist teachers to determine the effectiveness of an intervention or strategy by helping find ways to collect meaningful measures of progress. This information is used to support school staff in deciding whether to continue using a strategy or change to something that may be more successful. There are also instances in which school psychologists may be asked to assist with personal and family situations that may be interfering with a child's learning.

Also in the Guilford County Schools, school psychologists act as members of a number of departmental teams and/or district-wide committees including the Autism Team, Community Relations Team, District Crisis Team, Intervention/Prevention Team, Positive Behavior Support Team, school-based Intervention Support Teams (IST) and Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams, and the Preschool Team.

For more information regarding GCS psychological services department please visit our website at:

🌐 www.gcsnc.com/depts/psychservices/index.htm

Also see: 🌐 www.nasponline.org

Sandra A. Seibel, Ed.S., NCSP

Find Your School's EC Advocate

You can locate your school's EC advocate by downloading the following Adobe PDF document (type all on the same line into your browser's address bar):

🌐 guilfordcountyppta.org/uploads/_PTA_Advocate_List_1-30-08.pdf

👉 See reverse side for
UPCOMING EVENTS
and more!

upcoming events



Why aren't our kids leaving school ready for adult life?

Guilford County Council of PTA EC PTA Advocate Quarterly Meeting

☞ Date/time/location to be determined
See front page for contact information

Our scheduled guest speaker is Guilford County School's Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green. This is to be a question and answer session pertaining to our children's needs from Guilford County Schools and information about the road ahead for the special needs department. We encourage ALL to attend: parents, caregivers, teachers, principals, and anyone that is involved in the education of our children. Please join us for this productive and informative one on one time with our new superintendent.

News from Family Support Network of North Carolina

For questions regarding any of these events or programs, contact Brooke Jeneau ☎ (336) 334-5601 Ext. 217 or email ✉ juneau@ncmail.net

FSNCC January Events

11 FSNCC's Dad's Group

18 Down Syndrome Network of Greater GSO, **Moms' Night Out.**
7:00 PM, Caribou Coffee at Friendly Center, Greensboro. For information on this group, please call Lynn Hodges ☎ (336) 856-8968 or email ✉ nicke1hodges@yahoo.com

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Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities

The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Medicine has brought together the TEACCH Program, the Clinical Center for Development and Learning, the Family Support Network of NC, and The Neurodevelopmental Disorders Research Center to form the new *Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities*.

The Institute will provide state of the art resources aimed at supporting individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and will conduct research on the pathogenesis and treatment of these conditions.

Visit:

🌐 www.cidd.unc.edu

18 Rockingham County Sibling Group

5:00 - 7:00 PM, \$5.00 per child
Please join us for our kick-off event - a roller-skating party at Roll-A-Bout in Eden. A great chance for siblings of children with disabilities to have some special time just for them while meeting some understanding new friends.

23 GALS Group

6:30 - 8:30 PM
"Girls Appreciating Loving Siblings" Support group for sisters of children with special needs (grades 5 and up). St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Greensboro. Call Nancy ☎ (336) 832-6507 or email ✉ nancym@fsncc.org

27 ADD/ADHD Parent Support Group

6:30 - 8:30 PM
Topic: Medications for treatment of ADD/ADHD. Trinity Church, 5200 W. Friendly Ave. Greensboro

E.C. Vision Statement

The Department of Exceptional Children for Guilford County Schools believes in the basic operational principle of providing a quality education to ALL children.

In collaboration with students, parents, regular educators, and our community partners, students with disabilities will be provided specially designed, research-based instruction. By providing excellence in programming by highly qualified staff in the least restrictive environment, we will promote cognitive, physical, social, vocational, and emotional development.

What is Team Daniel?

Team Daniel is an information center of services located throughout North Carolina for individuals with developmental disabilities. We provide the resources needed to help locate supports in your community.

We are also enrolled with the North Carolina Division of Medical Assistance to provide services under the new CAP MR/DD Waivers.

Team Daniel has the authority to bill Medicaid for CAP MR/DD home and community-based waiver services including:

Kids with disabilities should have the tools they need to lead full, adult lives in their communities: marketable job skills, post-secondary educational opportunities, community living skills, recreational pursuits, and leisure interests.

The Arc of North Carolina is holding forums across the state to develop a comprehensive state-level plan to advocate for improved educational outcomes for students with disabilities. Your feedback is valuable: *What's working? What's not?*

Areas of Discussion:

- ◆ Teacher training
- ◆ Retaining teachers
- ◆ Paperwork
- ◆ Transition services and other agency involvement
- ◆ Individual Education Plans
- ◆ Vocational opportunities
- ◆ Least restrictive environment: separate classes/schools
- ◆ Testing / Graduation rates

Thursday, January 8, 2009

6:30- 8:30 PM

Deep River Friends Meeting
5300 W. Wendover Ave. High Point
(intersection of Wendover and Penny Roads)

Free child care provided, please RSVP by January 6th to confirm. For more information, call ☎ 883-0650 extension 230

- ◆ Home & Community Supports
- ◆ Personal Care Services
- ◆ Respite Care
- ◆ Individual/Caregiver Training & Education
- ◆ Supported Employment
- ◆ Residential Supports
- ◆ Home Supports

The services we provide focus on person-directed outcomes, principles of self-determination and individual choice.

🌐 www.teamdaniel.info