

IEP Partner Fact Sheet

Thank you for contacting Oregon Parent Training and Information Center (OrPTI) and taking part in our IEP Partner program. The OrPTI understands the importance of every IEP meeting and the need to support parents and youth through that process. This is the foundation of what our IEP Partner program is based on. Please take a few minutes to read over this fact sheet so you understand the IEP Partner's role and the program guidelines. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact our Special Education Helpline at: 1-888-891-6784.

- Partners are volunteers. They are not staff members or professional advocates.
- Partners are at no cost to parents or adult youth.
- We **ask** for a two week advance notice and **require** a minimum of 48 hours for any IEP Partner request.
- Make the most of your time with your Partner. Please prepare for a phone interview, initiated by the assigned IEP Partner, by outlining your concerns/ priorities and where you feel you need most help.
- We do **not** ask Partners to meet parents in person.
- The Partner's role is NOT to advocate or speak for the parent. Our job, their job, is to empower and prepare you, the parent, to meaningfully participate in your child's meeting and act in the role of advocate for your child.
- Partner's will take notes at the IEP meeting while parents focus on their agenda and participate in the meeting.
- Please be sure to sign the Partner's stipend form at the conclusion of your IEP meeting.
- Due to the high demand and limited resources, only two Partners will be assigned per child, per school year. Please consider carefully how and when it would be best to request a Partner.
- We cannot guarantee a Partner match or the same Partner for any subsequent meetings.
- Partners are not assigned to pre-eligibility meetings, parent/teacher conferences or (informal) parent/administrator meeting's.
- If you have additional questions and/or a request for information, please call the OrPTI special education helpline at 1-888-891-6784.
- If you'd like to become an IEP Partner and help other parents in your area, please check our website for upcoming trainings. www.oregonrisecenter.org
- We also offer High School Transition and Mediation Partners.
- If you have benefited from having a Partner, please consider making a tax deductible donation to ensure the continuation of this program. It's easy to do, visit our website at www.oregonrisecenter.org and link to **Paypal**. No donation is too big or too small. We thank you for your support.