**Role of General Education in Special Education**

Role in Referral Processes:

Have knowledge of Child Find and referral process when there is a suspicion of a disability.

* Ability to verify that the student referred for special education was provided appropriate instruction in reading, including the essential components of reading instruction and appropriate instruction in math.
* Provide, for students with academic concerns, an assessment of the student’s performance in relation to State-approved grade level standards.
* For students with behavioral concerns, provide systematic observation of the student’s behavior in the school environment where the student is displaying difficulty AND assessments of achievement and/or behavior.

Role in Evaluation Processes:

The student’s general education teacher is an evaluation team member.

* Provide information about the student’s academic and behavioral skills.
* Provide information about the student’s current performance (academic, developmental and physical functioning).
* Provide data about the student’s instructional levels and progress in the general curriculum.
* Offer anecdotal information regarding the student’s overall performance in school.

Role in IEP Development:

There is no “yours” or “mine”...the students are “our” students in the partnership framework between general education and special education. They are general education students first!

* A general education teacher is a required participant at an IEP meeting. If the student has more than one general education teacher, each teacher should be well informed about the child’s IEP, goals, supplementary aides and services (including accommodations and modifications) AND each teacher’s information about how the student performs in their curriculum should be shared at the IEP meeting. The general education teacher knows the curriculum for a child’s grade level and what children are expected to do (knowledge of grade level standards).
* Understand LRE to contribute to decision making regarding LRE (Least Restrictive Environment). LRE is “to the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities are educated with children who are nondisabled”; and “that special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes, with the use of supplementary aids and services, cannot be achieved satisfactorily”. This means everyone starts as part of the whole.
* Understand supplementary aides and services. These are aids, supports and services that allow a child to access and meaningfully participate in general education to the maximum extent possible. Can include modifications and accommodations to the general education environment. It includes participation in academic and extracurricular activities. Understand or know how to access support for understanding these supports, including accommodations and modifications.
* Everyone who is responsible for a goal or service in the IEP should have access to the IEP.
* The general education teacher may also tell the rest of the team what he or she needs to help the child understand the general curriculum and achieve the goals listed in the IEP.

What should a general educator bring to an IEP meeting?

* A compilation of data on how the child is doing in all academic areas (if a student is seen by a para-educator or another teacher, please bring their input to the meeting so we can discuss the total child).
* All progress monitoring data that you have and be able to define the child’s performance relative to a typical child’s development.
* You can bring writing samples.
* A list of child’s strengths and interests.
* Be able to describe or provide a written summary of what has been effective and not effective, what the child’s current needs are. What are you currently doing to support the student? What accommodations are in place currently?