

PARENT ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

WHEN AN EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT / ADVOCATE IS APPOINTED, THE PARENT(S) SURRENDERS THE RIGHTS TO MAKE EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS FOR THE CHILD. THE EDUCATIONAL SURROGATE PARENT / ADVOCATE PROGRAM SHOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED TO THE PARENT(S) AS AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. ASSISTANCE TO PARENT(S) REGARDING EDUCATION MATTERS IS AVAILABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING:

R. I. Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

1210 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920

(401)270-0101

FAX: (401)270-7049

www.ripin.org

The Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) is a statewide, non-profit organization offering training, information, referrals, and support to parents seeking positive outcomes for their children. RIPIN strives to educate, encourage and empower all parents by responding to telephone inquiries; supply current literature about numerous parenting issues including special education, disabilities, chronic illness and health care; by maintaining a web site; and by offering dozens of training workshops throughout the year. RIPIN provides information, support, and mentoring to assist parents in becoming effective advocates for their children.

Parent Support Network of RI (PSNRI)

Crossroad Commons, 1395 Atwood Avenue, Suite 114, Johnston, RI 02919

(401)467-6855

1-800-483-8844

FAX: (401)467-6903

www.psnri.org

The Parent Support Network of Rhode Island (PSN) is an organization of families supporting families with children and youth that are at risk for or have serious emotional, and/ or behavioral health challenges. The goals of PSN are to strengthen and preserve families; enable families in advocacy; extend social networks, reducing family isolation; and develop social policy and systems of care. PSN provides advocacy, education and training; promotes outreach and public awareness; facilitates social events for families; and participates on committees responsible for developing, implementing, and evaluating policies and systems of care.

R. I. Department of Education (RIDE)

Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports (OSCAS)

255 Westminster Street, Providence, RI 02903

Call Center: (401) 222-8999

www.ride.ri.gov

Staff in the Student, Community and Academic Supports can answer questions and respond to requests for information regarding special education. The OSCAS Call Center provides technical assistance to parents and school personnel. Every school district is responsible for ensuring that children with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education. The OSCAS encourages shared decision-making between families and schools. However, when parents and schools do not agree, there are several options available to address disputes. These include assistance from the Call Center, state mediation, written state complaints, and due process hearings. Information about dispute resolution options is available on the RIDE website at http://www.ride.ri.gov/OSCAS/Dispute_resolution/ The website offers a brochure in five languages regarding dispute resolution options, as well as procedures and forms for using any of the available steps. Forms are available on the website in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.