

Commission for Accessibility

Meeting Agenda

Monday, October 16, 2023 5:00PM

Via Zoom (access information below). Should someone need a special accommodation in order to participate in this meeting please contact Karen Gaudian at 203 807-4524.

Policy: Commission for Accessibility meetings will be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order and all participants are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and treat all those present with respect, empathy and civility.

Town of Ridgefield Guidelines Booklet

Hyperlink to Ridgefield Guidelines Booklet:

https://www.ridgefieldct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4916/f/uploads/town_of_ridgefield_bcc_handbook_-_final_11.3.22_0.pdf

Commission for Accessibility Chairman, Don Ciota, is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting hosted by Tony Philips, Town ADA Coordinator.

Topic: Ridgefield Commission for Accessibility

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89849746946?pwd=am1LeU11REdmU1U1N2IBakJ2QWU3UT09>

Meeting ID: 898 4974 6946

Passcode: 924263

One tap mobile

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5:00 PM. Call to Order

Public Comment

Town of Ridgefield Guidelines Booklet

A Milestone for Civil Rights: Celebrating 45 Years of IDEA. (1975-2020)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.

The IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education, and related services...

In the law, Congress states:

Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to participate in or contribute to society. Improving educational results for children with disabilities is an essential element of our national policy of ensuring equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities.

Who monitors compliance with the IDEA?

"The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) is responsible for ensuring states' compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA guarantees the free appropriate public education (FAPE) of children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment (LRE).

The Connecticut State Board of Education believes that all students, including students with exceptionalities, are unique and influenced by cultural, linguistic, intellectual, psychological, health and economic factors. (Excerpt from the State Board of Education's Position Statement on the Education of Students with Exceptionalities)

To Contact the Bureau of Special Education

[BSE Photo Staff Directory](#)

Connecticut State Department of Education
 Bureau of Special Education
 P.O. Box 2219
 Hartford, CT 06145-2219
 (860) 713-6910, Fax (860) 713-7051

Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director

<p>Bryan Klimkiewicz</p> <p>Special Education Division Director</p> <p>860-713-6910</p> <p>Bryan.Klimkiewicz@ct.gov</p>			
<p>Tom Boudreau</p> <p>860-713-6919</p> <p>Thomas.Boudreau@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · IDEA Part B Grant Manager · Assistive Technology (AT) · Accessible Ed. Material (AEM) · Complaint Investigations 	<p>Alycia Trakas 860-713-6932</p> <p>Alycia.Trakas@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Secondary Transition · Dyslexia · SSIP · General Monitoring and Supervision 	<p>Jolie Medina 860-713-6571</p> <p>Yolanda.Medina@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Special Education Support Staff 	<p>Mary Jean Schierberl 860-713-6943</p> <p>Maryjean.Schierberl@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Due Process · Hearings · Mediation · Complaint Investigations
<p>Andrea Brinnel 860-713-6941</p> <p>Andrea.Brinnel@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Special Education (619 Coordinator) • Special Education School Choice (Charter/Magnet) • FAPE by 3, LRE 3-5, ECO 	<p>Regina Gaunichaux 860-713-6937</p> <p>Regina.Gaunichaux@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Special Education Support Staff 	<p>Georgette Nemr 860-713-6716</p> <p>Georgette.Nemr@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surrogate Parent Program • Special Education Leadership • IEP Quality Training • CT-SEDS Pilot 	<p>Michael Tavernier 860-713-6929</p> <p>Michael.Tavernier@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · SPP/APR · General Monitoring & Supervision · CT-SEDS · IEP Initiatives
<p>Jay Brown 860-713-6918</p> <p>Jay.Brown@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Communications · Related Services / COPs · Complaint Investigations · PPTLI 	<p>Natalie Jones 860-713-6933</p> <p>Natalie.Jones@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · CT-SEDS · Mediation · Complaint Investigations · General Monitoring and Supervision 	<p>Dori Papa 860-713-6923</p> <p>Dori.Papa@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved Private Programs • Gifted & Talented • Paraeducators • Autism 	<p>Viviana Toure 860-713-6924</p> <p>Viviana.Toure@ct.gov</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Monitoring and Supervision • Disproportionality • SSIP • Evaluation Timelines

Sean Cronin 860-713-6938 Sean.P.Cronin@ct.gov · Parental Involvement · Complaint Investigations · State Advisory Council · Restraint and Seclusion	Mildred Pagán 860-713-6917 Mildred.Pagan@ct.gov · Assis		
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The Contrast of Gifted & Talented Programs in CT with the Mandates of the Idea Act:

The State of Connecticut requires that each board of education provide referral, identification and evaluation services only for gifted and talented children enrolled in grades kindergarten to twelve. The referral may come from any source including the teacher, administrator, parent, guardian, or child.

Under current regulations, public school districts in Connecticut are required to identify gifted and talented students, K-12. The process for identifying these students is decided upon by school district personnel. School districts are NOT mandated to provide services to students

Please compare the paragraph above with the following:

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children.