



Parents Encouraging Parents

**March 16-18, 2017
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska**

Are you a Nebraska parent of a child with special needs?

Then this conference is for you!

No registration fee! Two nights' lodging and most meals furnished!

Sponsored by
**Nebraska Department of Education,
Office of Special Education and the
Educational Service Unit Coordinating
Council (ESUCC)**

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What is PEP?

The purpose of PEP is to bring parents of children with disabilities together in an accepting and confidential environment, giving them the opportunity to share ideas, feelings and common concerns, and to obtain information on parenting and educating a child with a disability. Parents will go home with renewed energy, hope and a desire to work closely with professionals who serve their child so that every child can experience the fullest life.

Who Should Attend?

This conference is open to all Nebraska parents who are raising a child with a verified disability. The child must have an active IFSP/IEP.

A small number of openings are reserved for education professionals who serve children with disabilities and are employed in NE school districts. Professionals will experience PEP from a parent perspective.

Guidelines for Participants:

- All registered participants must attend the entire conference.
- For married couples, both spouses are required to attend the conference together for maximum benefit.
- Single parents are welcome to bring a support person that shares responsibility for raising the child with a disability and is actively involved in the child's education.

Conference Details: Registration, Lodging, Meals and Childcare

- Registration is on a first come, first serve basis. There is NO registration fee!
- Lodging on Thursday and Friday, dinner on Thursday and breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday are furnished.
- You will receive an email or letter **confirming** your participation. The PEP staff will reserve a hotel room in your name and arrange for your meals.
- Please make your own child care arrangements. Children are not permitted to stay in their parents' hotel room at the Conference.
- Once your registration is confirmed, **you are expected to attend the PEP Conference** as the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is covering the conference costs, including your hotel room and meals.
- If an emergency arises and you cannot attend PEP, please call us immediately at 402-471-2471, so that your hotel reservation and meals can be cancelled. Failure to notify us could jeopardize future funding for this Conference.

How Do I Register?

To register, **first read the *Guidelines for Participants***. Then, complete the registration form available online at:

www.education.ne.gov/sped/index.html

Register by **February 20, 2017**. After this date, please call 402-471-2471 for availability.

If you do not have access to a computer please contact your school or PEP staff at 402-471-2471.

PEP - A Unique Conference

The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), Office of Special Education, recognizes that parents are experts in many areas of their child's life. Thus, NDE has entrusted parents to create guidelines, plan and run the PEP Conference. PEP is unique in that it is a conference FOR parents BY parents.

What Parents Say About PEP:

"I learned a lot of great information. I feel relieved and empowered and know I am not alone."

"I like that this conference is put on basically by 'lay people' with special needs kids who live this every day. Thank you!"

"After coming, I understand the importance for parents to come together because they are so busy 'just handling' things. They need to regroup and get on the same page. This has started a movement in us to better our relationship like nothing ever has. Thank-you."

"Life changing! I can't even express how amazing and encouraged I feel."

What Education Professionals say about PEP:

"I was able to take my professional hat off and listen to what parents with a child with a disability go through from the day they learn about the disability."

Please feel free to copy and share this brochure with parents or educational professionals who may benefit from attending

Comments Shared about the Informational Sessions at PEP

Good Grief!

"Grieving is an emotional process so it was good to have the 'words' put to the process. I could identify with the presenters even though our child has a different disability."

IFSP/IEP Process

"A tremendous amount of information presented in clear understandable terms. Easy to follow. Simple steps to a complicated process."

Siblings

"It was great to hear these siblings share what they thought and felt about their family life."

Assistive Technology

"Very helpful to have all the products in the room."

Social Skills

"I learned actual tools to help my son in his most difficult area of social skills."

Estate Planning

"Good outline of what we needed to know to get started. Very useful."

Pearls of Wisdom

"Real stories from real parents in the trenches. Gut wrenching, funny and tearful – the best part."

Conference Schedule

Thursday, March 16 6 - 9 p.m.

Hotel check in 5:00 p.m.

Dinner

Welcome & Conference Overview

Discussion Group

Friday, March 17 8:30-5:00

The IEP Process

Early Childhood/IFSP Process

Transition to Adult Living

Building Positive Parent/School

Partnerships

Lunch

Good Grief!

Discussion Group

Dinner (on your own)

Evening free to socialize, network, and relax

Saturday, March 18 8:30-3:00

Check out of hotel before 9 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Assistive Technology
- Estate Planning for the Child with Special Needs
- For Men Only
- Siblings
- Positive Behavior Management
- Empowering Kids to be Self-Advocates
- Youth Leadership Council - Stories from the Heart
- Social Skills

Lunch

Discussion Group

Pearls of Wisdom

Closing and Evaluations