



Office for Exceptional Children (February 2012)

State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children accepting applications for membership

The Ohio Department of Education's State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) is seeking nominations for membership for a three year term beginning July 1, 2012. We are requesting your assistance with identifying potential members for this panel. We are seeking members who are individuals with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, teachers, administrators of programs for children with disabilities, representatives of institutions of higher education and representatives of a vocational, community schools, private schools, and community or business organizations concerned with the transition of children with disabilities.

SAPEC's purpose is to provide broad based input to the Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) regarding policies, practices and issues related to the education of children and youth with disabilities who are between the ages of birth through twenty-one. OEC's goal is to establish an active State Advisory Panel with broad representation from across the state to advise the OEC on issues related to Ohio's state performance plan, state improvement grants, OEC's General Supervision responsibilities, effective implementation of IDEA Regulations and other initiatives designed to improve outcomes for all children with disabilities.

State Advisory Panel membership, as prescribed in IDEA, includes a variety of constituents. The majority of members must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities ages of birth through 26.

Please review the membership requirements listed on the application. If you are interested in seeking membership on the SAPEC, please complete the application and submit it along with the requested information by no later than **Feb. 29, 2012** in order to be considered for membership in 2012-2013. Also, please forward this information and application to others who meet these requirements for membership.

Review information related to SAPEC, the recruiting flyer and the application at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=967&ContentID=99705&Content=120109> or keyword search "SAPEC application" on the ODE website.

Thank you for your assistance with identifying individuals to serve on Ohio's State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children. If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact Sandy Kaufman at (887) 644-6338 or sandy.kaufman@ode.state.oh.us.

Applications now open for Speech-Language Pathology Intern Graduate Program

ODE and Ohio Master's Network Initiatives in Education (OMNIE) continue to address the immediate and future availability of speech-language pathologists (SLPs) for Ohio's children who receive special education services. The Speech-Language Pathology Intern Graduate Program immediately increases the number of qualified SLPs in Ohio schools and provides districts with four continuous years of service delivery. The 2012-13 school year will mark the

fifth and final year this program will be offered. SLP Intern assignments will be made in March.

Districts facing continued SLP shortages and/or anticipating future openings are invited to participate. Administrators must submit the District Application for SLP Support to request intern participation for the 2012-13 academic year. Please direct any questions to Nada Allender, OMNIE project coordinator, at nada@ameritech.net or (330) 699-4019.

For additional information on OMNIE and the application visit <http://www.omnie.org/> go to For School Administrators in the left menu.

Non-ODE Items of Interest

Youth Leadership Forum for 11th and 12th grade students with disabilities

What Is The Youth Leadership Forum? A four day leadership training program for 11th and 12th grade high school students with disabilities. Many young people with disabilities now have more options and more challenges than at any other time in our nation's history. This forum is geared to prepare them to take advantage of the unprecedented opportunities and to fully develop as constructive, contributing members of our society.

The Ohio Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for students with disabilities will provide career leadership training for high school juniors and seniors. Young students with disabilities will cultivate leadership, citizenship, advocacy, a sense of independence and social skills that will enhance their opportunity to become effective leaders for tomorrow. By providing a framework of history, awareness, peer support, and an atmosphere of encouragement, the students will gain vital access to assistive technology, community support and civil rights.

Who Participates In The Youth Leadership Forum? Young people who have disabilities and who:

- Demonstrate leadership potential;
- Demonstrate involvement in the community or extra-curricular activities;
- Demonstrate the ability to interact effectively with other students; and
- Are representative of Ohio in terms of geographic region, gender, and ethnicity.

Outcomes? Student Delegates will:

- learn about choosing a career, the history of disability as a culture, available resources and assistive technology;
- identify existing barriers to personal and professional success and develop plans to deal with those barriers;
- be introduced to professionals with disabilities as possible mentors and role models to encourage youth to realize their ability, rights, and obligation to pursue meaningful employment and community leadership;
- develop a "Personal Leadership Plan" which will include specific action plans for the students for their return to their communities; and
- be empowered to reach goals in education, employment and community.

WHO: 40+ high school students will be selected to attend through a competitive application selection process.

WHEN: July 16-19, 2012

WHERE: Columbus OH

COST: No cost for students/participants to attend this forum.

Application Deadline-postmarked no later than March 31, 2012.

For the application and additional information, contact:

www.gcpd.ohio.gov/YLF/index.html

Governor's Council on People with Disabilities

Donna Foster/YLF Coordinator

614.438.1394 or

1.800.282.4536 ext.1394

Donna.Foster@rsc.state.oh.us

2012 Through the Looking Glass Scholarship--Students whose parent has a disability

Through the Looking Glass and its National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families are pleased to announce new scholarships specifically for high school seniors or college students who have parents with disabilities. A total of fifteen \$1000 scholarships will be given out Fall 2012. These scholarships are part of Through the Looking Glass' National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families. These scholarships are open to all students whose parent has any significant disability or health condition. Although no specific parental disabilities are prioritized for these scholarships, we especially encourage those students who have a parent with an intellectual disability to apply for these scholarships.

There are separate eligibility requirements for high school seniors and for college students:

- High School Seniors. To be eligible, a student must be a high school graduate (or graduating senior) by Summer 2012, planning to attend a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2012 in pursuit of an AA, BA or BS degree, and have at least one parent with a disability.
- College Students. To be eligible, a student must be currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year college in Fall 2012 in pursuit of an AA, BA or BS degree, be 21 years of age or younger as of March 5, 2012, and have at least one parent with a disability.

All application materials must be postmarked by **March 5, 2012**. Individuals may submit only one application per award period.

Selection criteria for all scholarships include academic performance, community activities and service, letter of recommendation and an essay describing the experience of growing up with a parent with a disability. Five of the fifteen scholarships will also consider financial hardship and academic potential in addition to the other selection criteria.

Please go to the website: <http://www.lookingglass.org> for more information, including the application form, complete application directions and an FAQ page that answers many common questions as well as offers helpful suggestions.