

Re: SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to help as you enter the special education process.

Special Education opens the door to new words and new procedures that may not be familiar. There are new meetings that are important for you to attend. We understand all of this may be confusing at first.

We know you have concerns about the education of your child. We want to do our best to provide the services your child needs.

We hope the enclosed “ Guide to Special Education Services” will help explain the meetings you will have with school staff and education specialists as you develop a plan to meet your child’s needs.

You are not alone.

Your child’s teacher, principal, and special education service providers want to make sure your child’s needs are met. In addition, there are many community services available. A list is on the back of this letter.

The San Francisco Unified School District has created a web site for parents. You may visit it at <http://www.sfusd.k12.ca.us/dept/sped>. The web site contains a list of district services, staff directory, and information written especially for parents. You also can find a list of web resources about special education needs.

If you do not have a computer at home, you may use a computer at your neighborhood public school or the public library. You may also ask the Parent Relations Office at 555 Franklin Street, Room 102, San Francisco, CA 94102 (Tel 415 241-6185) to make copies of the information and send it to you.

Please do not hesitate to speak with your teacher, your principal and your special education service providers about any questions or concerns you may have.

Special Education Web Site
<http://www.sfusd.k12.ca.us/dept/sped>

SERVICES TO PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

OPEN GATE

300 Seneca Avenue San Francisco, CA., 94112 Tel. 415-469-4518

www.supportforfamilies.org FAX 415-469-4786 Email info@supportforfamilies.org

Open Gate is a collaboration among the following agencies to enable families with disabilities to access their services more easily.

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities	415-469-4518
Community Alliance for Special Education	415-928-2273
Keys to Introducing Disability in Society	415-587-2885
Community Advisory Committee for Special Education	415-459-4518
Community Mental Health Services	415-255-3400
San Francisco Unified School District	415-242-2670
United Cerebral Palsy	415-627-6939

Phone line and Drop-in services

Families and professionals can call or drop in at their convenience and find out about the services available to them. Open Gate is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday except Tuesday and Thursday, when it is open until 8:30 p.m.

Lending Library

Support for Families operates an extensive lending library. A toy lending library is also available.

Support Groups

The support groups include: Chinese and Spanish speaking parents, Downs Syndrome, siblings, single parents, parent mentors, school age group, Visitation Valley, deaf and hard of hearing, group support for fathers, student groups.

Parent Mentor Program

This program matches parents/caregivers with others who might have a child with a similar disability or issue. Training is provided to those interested in becoming parent mentors.

Counseling

This includes mental health counseling, consultation and some case management in Spanish and English.

Workshops and Trainings

Parent/Professional Workshops are offered on the first Thursday of every month during the school year from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Translations services and childcare are offered if reserved in advance. Please call ahead to confirm workshop and reserve space.

Links to Mental Health Services

This program helps families connect with appropriate mental health services.

Advocacy and Representation

An initial consultation with an advocate either in person or over the phone can be arranged by calling Open Gate and making an appointment.

Disability Awareness and Leadership

This program teaches students about disability related issues from a civil rights perspective.

Additional San Francisco Resources

Children's Mental Health Assessment Program (AB3632)

Assessment, counseling, cases management and outreach for children and families referred through the office of special education of the SFUSD

<http://www.fsasf.org/services/cyf.html>