



# Special Education Newsletter

# November 2016

## KENT ISD TRANSITION EXPO

Over the course of the school year, the Kent ISD will be offering four opportunities scheduled between December 2016 and March 2017 for parents and students to increase their knowledge and experience with issues related to transition and post-secondary options for life after high school. Discover the range of services available to assist students with transition needs to gain their independence and live successful, fulfilling lives. All four sections of the Transition Expo located within the Grand Rapids area will host over 30 community agencies. The first Transition Expo is scheduled for December 1, 2016 from 3:00 to 6:00 PM at Northview High School. Increasing knowledge and awareness of transition-related issues is a goal of our EGR High School Special Education Team, and we strongly encourage your attendance at one of the upcoming expos.

<b>December 1, 2016</b> 3:00 6:00 pm Northview High School	<b>January 19, 2017</b> 3:00 6:00 pm Forest Hills Fine Arts Center
<b>February 16, 2017</b> 4:00 7:00 pm Godwin Heights High School	<b>March 2, 2017</b> 3:00 6:00 pm Union High School

Our staff will also be discussing this great opportunity with your child at school. Please click on the link below for more information regarding future Transition Expo dates and locations.

[Kent ISD Transition Expo](#)

## ELF JR. - THE MUSICAL



Based on the beloved holiday film, this hilarious comedy follows Buddy the Elf in his quest to find his true identity. This production of Elf Jr. is produced by students ranging in age from 8 to 18 participating in the Pride's Young Artists program. This low-sensory production is designed to provide a barrier free theatrical experience for children with disabilities. The production will be held at Belding High School on four days in December.

[Elf Jr. - The Musical](#)



## SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT HANDBOOK WITH PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

We invite you to become acquainted with the programs, people, and organizations available to help you and your child. This handbook was developed for parents of students with disabilities by the Kent Intermediate School District. It serves as one source of information regarding state and federal laws that have been written to protect the rights of special education students. In general, as a parent of a child with a disability, you will receive a copy of procedural safeguards prior to each IEP team meeting. Additional copies of the booklet are available upon request from the EGRPS Special Education Department or the Kent Intermediate School District.

### [Procedural Safeguards](#)

### Special Education Parent Handbook

with Procedural Safeguards



 **Kent ISD**  
We Lead Learning

## ANNUAL LEAP CONFERENCE

**LEAP**  
**LEAD/EMPOWER/ASSIST**  
**PARENTS**



The Kent ISD will be hosting their annual LEAP conference on March 4, 2017. The day long conference is designed to support parents and providers of children with disabilities. It features presentations covering a wide variety of topics, from understanding the IEP and 504 Plan to legal planning for individuals with disabilities. There are approximately 25 different breakout sessions offered throughout the day.

Save the date! The LEAP conference is always well attended. Follow the link below for more information.

### [LEAP Conference](#)

## TRANSITION INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### **What is "Transition"?**

All students leave school to create their adult lives. "Transition" describes that critical transformation, and includes the education, legal information, planning, and community connections our special education students need in order to achieve those adult goals.

The transition process prepares students with disabilities for adult life by focusing on the specific areas of post secondary education, employment, community participation, and when appropriate, independent living skills.

### **When Does Transition Planning Begin?**

Federal rules and regulations require that transition planning for students with disabilities begin no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child is 16, and updated annually thereafter. However, it is considered best practice to begin transition planning as early as when a student turns 14. In general, students attending EGR Middle School will develop a transition plan during the IEP process during the second semester of 8th grade.

For further information regarding transition, follow the link below.

**[Kent ISD - Transition](#)**

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## IMPORTANT LINKS

**[EGRPS Special Education Home Page](#)**

**[EGRPS Community Budget Guide 2016-2017](#)**

**[Kent ISD - Special Education Home Page](#)**

**[Parent Advisors for Special Education - PASE](#)**

**[Michigan Department of Education - Special Education Home Page](#)**

**[US Department of Education - OSERS](#)**