





FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

An Introduction to APPLE

Advancing Parent Professional Leadership in Education

INFORMING, EDUCATING, EMPOWERING FAMILIES
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OSEP Funded Pilot

The Advancing Parent-Professional Leadership in Education (APPLE) project was originally funded by OSEP to develop leadership skills of parents individually and within their communities.

The Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston collaborated with the Federation for Children with Special Needs on the pilot project from 2006-2008.



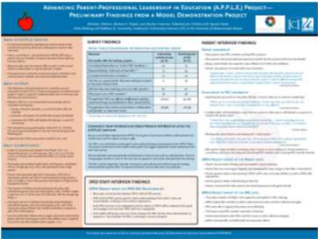
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Why Work with SEPACs

The APPLE project took place in Massachusetts where school districts are required to have local special education parent advisory councils or SEPACs.

The APPLE project used this statewide SEPAC structure to identify best practices for building capacity for SEPACs and other parent groups to improve their organizational capacity to more effectively collaborate with educators.



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Pilot Project Recommendations

- ✓ Have clear goals and objectives for parent involvement
- ✓ Connect parents to and help them utilize existing resources
- ✓ Provide ways for parents to identify and value their own leadership styles
- ✓ Be clear that all parents' voices and perspectives are needed and valued.

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Feedback from Participants

Since 2006, over 75 school districts have participated in APPLE!

As an administrator working with my SEPAC, it was as though roles and titles did not exist, we worked as one.

Not only did our team have diverse goals – we also identified the same issues and needs

The APPLE Institute exceeded all of our expectations

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Today's APPLE Learning Objectives



1. Identify individual strengths and skills to build district leadership capacity;
2. Build a collaborative team to focus on family engagement with a goal to improve educational outcomes for all students;
3. Increase outreach to diverse communities to broaden perspectives and make sure all voices are heard; and
4. Create and implement a local Action Plan which outlines activities needed to achieve vision.

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For more information:

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