



Knowledge Powers Solutions for Parents
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MAKING SPECIAL EDUCATION ACTUALLY WORK GUEST BLOGGER GUIDELINES

KPS4Parents' primary blog, "Making Special Education Actually Work," is open to guest blogger contributions in accordance with these guidelines.

The first priority that any contributor must honor is the reality that there is no constructive purpose served by an "us versus them" mentality in special education, but that appropriate outcomes are not possible if we pretend that the bad things aren't happening. So, speak the truth but don't presume that everyone in special education is out to screw parents and students over and don't presume that all parents are kooks trying to get things to which their children are not entitled.

As with positive behavioral interventions, try to focus on what people are doing correctly, where possible, and don't just dwell on the negative. Don't sugar-coat a harsh reality but don't make mountains out of molehills, either.

We are seeking guest blogger articles that address topics that include, but are not limited to:

- The challenges of school district administration to run a large bureaucracy while still preserving the ability to individualize each child's program who requires an IEP.
- How to gracefully handle disputes and misunderstandings.
- The regulatory requirements at the state level for each state in the United States.
- Comparisons between how special education is supposed to be delivered in the United States versus other countries – from both a regulatory standpoint and an implementation standpoint.
- Constructive advice on how to contend with difficult-to-address assessment and service needs.
- The challenges faced by parents and education agencies in different types of communities (rural, urban, suburban, military base, etc.).

Guest bloggers need to understand that KPS4Parents is a parent- and student-focused advocacy organization. Our goal is to facilitate appropriate outcomes for students, not provide a platform for people to make excuses as to why students' needs cannot allegedly be met. While about 50% of our readership comes from the public education community, and certainly the solution to the problems in special education requires the collaboration of all involved parties, we will not tolerate parent- and/or student-bashing articles.

If you have an idea for an article, please submit a query first that describes what you have in mind. If approved for further development, you will be provided with a user ID and password to log into the backend of our blog and either type or copy/paste your content into WordPress (the platform we use for our blog) and submit it for editorial review.

KPS4Parents reserves the right to edit all submitted materials before publishing them as well as the right to reject a final submission. KPS4Parents does not pay fees for guest blogger articles, but does provide in-kind donation receipts for the cash value of articles to guest bloggers upon publication. Published articles are considered worth \$50 each and donation receipts are provided in PDF file format via email to guest bloggers at the time of publication.

Bylines are provided as a short paragraph at the bottom of each article; guest blogger articles are maintained in a category of their own but can also be listed in other blog categories; and blog articles can be searched by author. If a guest blogger has a Gravatar avatar, that image will show up next to any comments posted by a guest blogger. That image, or any other professional-looking small thumbnail image of the guest blogger, can be used in the byline, as well.

Articles become the property of KPS4Parents upon publication. Unpublished works remain the property of the guest blogger, even if saved to the WordPress backend of our blog. Guest bloggers have the right to withdraw their work after submission and prior to publication with or without cause and will need to email us at blog@kps4parents.org to give notice and confirm any withdrawal.