

## March 2008 Advocacy Newsletter

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Information gathered by the Education, Environment, Health and Wellness, Parent Involvement, Parenting and Family Life, Cyber Safety and Special Education Chairs to assist you in your advocacy efforts



### Education

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- **SED has released a memo on rulers and protractors for the 2008 administration of the Math 3-8 assessments.** The link to the web page: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/elintmath.html>
- Secretary Spellings has announced the creation of **Teaching Ambassador Fellowship** positions for currently practicing, K-12 public school teachers at the U.S. Department of Education for the 2008-2009 school year. These positions will offer highly motivated, innovative teachers the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and experience to the national dialogue on public education. Highly qualified K-12 public school teachers who have spent at least three years in the classroom are eligible to apply. Teachers must be currently practicing in and employed by a public school district to be eligible. To ensure collaboration at the school and district levels, teacher applicants must have the full support of their school principals. Applications are due by April 7, 2008. Please read the detailed information found at: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship>
- **Fourteenth Annual Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators contest:** Here's an opportunity to encourage children to create their own stories. Thirteen/WNET New York is teaming up with the Emmy Award-winning series READING RAINBOW for the Fourteenth Annual READING RAINBOW Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. The Contest invites children, kindergarten through third grade, to write and illustrate their own stories. Deadline for submission is March 25th, 2008. For complete rules and an entry form please visit the Web site: <http://www.thirteen.org/kids/>



### Cyber Safety

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- **States Push for Cyberbully Controls:** A least seven states, including Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey and Oregon, passed cyberbullying laws in 2007 in response to a rise in incidences. Five more - Maryland, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont - are considering similar legislation this year. Most of the laws are confined to the use of school computers or networks. Others call for education officials to take action against off-campus bullying that disrupts their schools. [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-06-Cyberbullying\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2008-02-06-Cyberbullying_N.htm)



### Special Education

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- A new area dedicated to special education, **The NCCTQ Connection** <http://www.ncctq.org/topics/specialEducation.php> has gone live on the NCCTQ website. This new online space includes links to resources on the five key special education topic

areas: assessment, behavior, inclusive practices, instructional strategies, and reading/literacy. Plan to participate in a discussion on Classroom Management/Behavior based on the newest NCCTQ issue paper, Effective Classroom Management: Teacher Preparation and Professional Development

<http://www.ncctq.org/topics/effectiveClassroomManagement.pdf> It is the intent of this resource to provide the most up to date and research based practice and policy in an on-line dialogue focused on five key topical areas: (a) Assessment; (b) Classroom Management/Behavior; (c) Inclusive Practices; (d) Instructional Strategies; and, (e) Reading/Literacy.

- A memorandum with information about a ruling relating to the [provision of special education services to students with disabilities](#) in NYS who are instructed at home by their parents (home schooled) is now available. The Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that home schooled students receive special education services to the same extent that other parentally placed private school students receive services only if the home schools are recognized under State law as private elementary or secondary schools.
- **AGATE - Advocacy for Gifted and Talented Education in NY.** There are some great links from their website - <http://www.agateny.com/>
- **It's Time To Transition! A Workbook for Young Adults, Their Families, and Their Medical Providers.** Dr. Laura Pickler developed this workbook to facilitate the medical transition process from pediatric focused to adult focused health care. The workbook is available on the web as a PDF at:  
<http://info.thearc.org/t/730617/3673500/21569/0/?u=aHR0cDovL3d3dy5jZHB0ZS5zdGF0ZS5jby51cy9wcy9oY3AvdHJhbnNpdGlvbi93b3JrYm9vay5wZGY%3d&x=311822a8>
- **The link to the IDEA Partnership Collection on RTI is:**  
<http://www.ideapartnership.org/page.cfm?pageid=17>
- **A Parent's Guide to Response-to-Intervention:**  
[http://www.nclد.org/images/stories/downloads/parent\\_center/rti\\_final.pdf](http://www.nclد.org/images/stories/downloads/parent_center/rti_final.pdf)  
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) includes a provision that allows states and school districts to use high quality, research-based instruction in general and special education to provide services and interventions to students who struggle with learning and may be at risk of or suspected of having learning disabilities. The National Center for Learning Disabilities has written this Guide to provide an overview of the Response-to-Intervention process and its implementation and suggest questions that parents can ask about it.  
There is a more comprehensive list of federal resources here:  
[http://www.rtisummit.org/resources\\_fedprj.asp](http://www.rtisummit.org/resources_fedprj.asp)  
And a list of research projects here:  
[http://www.rtisummit.org/resources\\_grants.asp](http://www.rtisummit.org/resources_grants.asp)