

Pre-Conference B



Making Inclusive Education a Reality for Your Child



Jeannine H. Brinkley, Executive Director, PEAL Center, Pittsburgh, PA

Jeanine Schultz, Director of Training, PEAL Center, daughter with DS, Pittsburgh, PA

This session will engage participants in defining an inclusive education and discussing the importance of having high expectations and presuming competence for learners with Down syndrome and other disabilities. We will review the ways that IDEA and the IEP process support inclusive educational practices for all learners and explore the power of supplementary aids and services as a tool for overcoming barriers to learning and participation in general education classrooms. In addition, we will take a look at the potential of Universal Design for Learning principles that result in instruction that is designed to meet the needs of diverse learners. Finally, we will facilitate families in creating a vision for their child and identifying important information to address at their next IEP meeting.

Learning Objectives:

1. Identify how IDEA and the IEP process supports inclusive education
2. Explain the importance of Supplementary Aids and Services
3. List the most important things you will share with your child's IEP team at the next meeting

About the Speakers:

Jeannine H. Brinkley has more than three decades of expertise in inclusive practices, special education, and supporting school teams to transform service delivery, as well as personal experience supporting family members with disabilities. As Executive Director for the PEAL Center, Jeannine leads a statewide organization that provides information, resources and training, as well as individual assistance to families and professionals. In her previous roles providing technical assistance at the State and County levels, she helped to implement the GATEWAYS System Change Program — PA's first statewide effort to move towards inclusive schools. When the Gaskin Settlement Agreement happened in 2014, she coordinated the PA Department of Education's implementation of the settlement activities. Most recently, Jeannine has had the privilege to collaborate in conceptualizing and implementing Project MAX, PA's State Professional Development Grant, focused on building capacity in schools to maximize access to grade level general education curriculum for learners with complex instructional needs.

Jeanine Schultz is the Director of Training at the PEAL Center. She brings over 20 years of experience in advocating for inclusive education, adult and systems advocacy, and transition to adulthood. Jeanine previously worked at ACHIEVA, where she was the Director of Family Supports. She has conducted over 100 trainings through Pennsylvania Training Partnership for People with Disabilities and Families. She has served as a board member for the Down Syndrome Center of Pittsburgh, has a degree in Informational Technology, and is a graduate of The National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware Center for Disabilities. She and her husband are the parents of four children, all with different abilities.