



Who We Are

The FEP, started in 1984, provides a unique opportunity for parents and educators to build partnerships to improve educational programs for children and young adults with special needs.

Modeling an effective collaborative partnership, the FEP is staffed by a family coordinator who brings the perspective of a parent with a child having special needs and an educator coordinator who brings the perspective of an educator. Each of Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs) employ these staff to guide the program within the AEA. They collaborate directly with parents, local education agencies, and agencies outside the educational system.



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Great Prairie Area Education Agency works as an educational partner with public and accredited, nonpublic schools to help students, school staff, parents and communities. Great Prairie AEA provides professional development and leadership to promote school improvement, a variety of instructional services, special education support services, and technology and media services. It is the policy of the Great Prairie Education Agency not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Greg Manske, 3601 West Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601, (319) 753-6561 x1217, greg.manske@gpaea.org (employment practices) or Deb Cook, 2814 N. Court Street, Ottumwa, IA 52501, (641) 682-8591 x5324, deb.cook@gpaea.org (educational programs).

FAMILY & EDUCATOR PARTNERSHIP (FEP)



Together We're Better

FEP is founded on the following principles:

- Creating partnerships early builds the foundation for family and child success
- Families, educators and community providers all have important roles, responsibilities and perspectives in the education and support of children
- Shared communication builds successful partnerships
- Successful partnerships work together by recognizing, understanding and respecting individual differences
- Each family has the option to access a variety of services and supports through the FEP, depending upon their needs at any point in time



FEP Resources and Services for Families and Educators:

- Facilitate understanding of special education including family/student rights and responsibilities
- Support families and educators through personal, phone, email contact, including attending Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP)/IEP meetings
- Assistance preparing for IFSP/IEP meeting
- Information and support regarding transition from IFSP to IEP and post secondary transition
- Support communication between home and school to enhance family and educator partnerships
- Link family and educators to services within the AEA and the community
- Provide information and understanding regarding educational processes



MISSION

The Family and Educator Partnership (FEP) works to develop and sustain effective partnerships between families, educators, and community providers to promote success for all children and youth with disabilities.