

# Building Professional Capacity Using



---

## Introduction

- Name, Title, etc.
- Goal for presentation
- What you will learn today

## Overview of Building Professional Capacity

- **Analyze Situations** – with *Special Ed Connection's* user-friendly tools, you can conduct research, answer questions and learn how to analyze unique special education issues.
- **Keep staff informed and ready to address questions** – *Special Ed Connection*<sup>®</sup> provides a common source of timely information that has practical application for special educators. By referring special education staff to the common source, you can feel assured that they are receiving the same explanations and advice for implementation, based on the most recent information available.
- **Locate Fast Answers** – searching for the right information to share with colleagues, leadership, and others can be a daunting task considering the thousands of documents that exist relative to special education. Educators need a resource that cuts through useless information from sources of questionable credibility and narrows the focus to those areas and tools that are most relevant.
- **Preparation** – whether preparing for a board meeting, staff training, IEP meeting, or parent conference, *Special Ed Connection*<sup>®</sup> puts the right information at your fingertips. Professional development materials, fast news, a quick picture of what is happening in special education today, sample forms and policies, statutes / regulations, case law, and more are easy to locate with the powerful search tool
- **Train** – *Special Ed Connection*<sup>®</sup> can be used as a training tool – for both individual and collective learning experiences. Training for regular and special educators can be delivered via staff meetings, discussion groups, and e-mail distribution using topic-specific articles and cases that address current challenges.

## Keep Up-To-Date

One of the best ways to help your staff consistently build professional capacity is to make sure they are up-to-date with current issues, trends and developments relating to special education. *Special Ed Connection*<sup>®</sup> offers several useful options.

- a. The **Videocast** is a 3 to 5 minute “news video” outlining relevant special education news over the past two weeks.
- b. **News Articles** written by our expert editorial staff are relevant to all special education professionals.
- c. **e-CONNECTIONS** is delivered to your email inbox each weekday providing headlines and breaking news regarding special education. Each headline links you directly to the complete news story.
- d. The **What's New** link contains the latest updates to our web site – including new/updated documents, forms and tools, briefs and pleadings, and more. We recommend that you check this page often to see the newest and most timely documents added to the site.

## Tools You Can Use – For Yourself and For Your Staff

- a. **Dictionary** – defines more than 1,400 terms used in special education. Each word/phrase is broken down into a concise, easy-to-understand explanation with cross-references to related special education terms.
- b. **SmartStarts** – succinct topical guides can be your first stop in researching special education. Each **SmartStart** consists of:
  - i. Overview
  - ii. Key Points
  - iii. Links to:
    1. Stats & Regs
    2. Cases
    3. Other Resources
- c. Special Ed **Roundups** provide additional resources to expand and develop topics. You'll find best-practice guidance and valuable resources on a host of important issues. We've done all the work for you. Each **Roundup** provides:
  - iv. Practical guidance components
  - v. Supporting case files
  - vi. Additional **SmartStarts** to cross reference
  - vii. Other resources referenced in **Roundups** might include:
    1. **Sample Forms & Tools**
    2. **Legal Watch** (an "at-a-glance" comparison of precedent-setting legal rulings from courts and agencies).
    3. **You be the Judge** is a brief description of a real complaint. Staff are asked how they would have responded before the actual ruling is revealed. These are excellent working examples to use with staff to explore their mastery of the topic

## Q & A Period

## Wrap Up and Thank You