

PEAK Parent Center Conference on Inclusive Education | October 13 & 14, 2026

Day One: Tuesday, October 13th, 2026

8:00 AM – 9:05 AM **Check-In, Breakfast & Vendor Fair**

9:05 AM – 9:20 AM **Conference Opening — Michele Williers**
CEO, PEAK Parent Center

9:20 AM – 10:35 AM **Keynote — Rebekah Taussig**
Disability Advocate, Educator & Bestselling Author of Sitting Pretty

10:35 AM – 10:55 AM **Break, Networking & Vendor Fair**

10:55 AM – 12:25 PM **Breakout Sessions (select one)**

- **More Than a Meeting: Building Trust Before, During, & After the IEP**
Tena Green — Educational Consultant, Advocate & Mom, IDEA Advocacy
- **Understanding Section 504 & SB26-125**
Emily Harvey & Aliana Dye - Disability Justice
- **Advocating and Preparing for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**
Shayna Laing — Program Manager, IN!

Lunch, Plenary & Allies for Inclusion Award Presentation

12:25 PM – 2:20 PM **Plenary - Richard La Belle, Esq.**
President, FND Trust Services, IDEA National Preservation Coalition for Parent Centers

Allies for Inclusion Award Presentation

2:20 PM – 2:40 PM **Break, Networking & Vendor Fair**

2:40 PM – 4:30 PM **Breakout Sessions (select one)**

- **Transitioning from High School to Postsecondary School: Rights & Resources**
Emily Harvey & Aliana Dye - Disability Justice
- **Restorative Practice: A Student First Approach**
Mandy Farrar - 1st Grade Teacher, Thompson School District
- **Holding Both Truths: When Systems Work and Families Still Struggle**
Bry Aitkin — Early Childhood Consultant
- **Everyone Belongs, Everyone Participates: Accommodations & Modifications Make it Happen!**
Missy Sieders — Parent Advisor, PEAK Parent Center
- **It's More Than a Meeting: Building Trust Before, During, and After the IEP**
Tena Green — Educational Consultant, Advocate & Mom, IDEA Advocacy

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM **PEAK's 40th Anniversary Reception & Rebekah Taussig Book Signing**

Day Two: Wednesday, October 14th, 2026

6:45 AM –
7:45 AM Breakfast & Vendor Fair

7:45 AM–
8:00 AM Day 2 Opening — Jon Paul Burden
Special Education Director, Mesa Valley School District 51

8:00 AM –
9:30 AM Keynote — Glenna Wright-Gallo
*Vice President of Strategic Research & Policy, Everway;
Former U.S. Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services*

9:30 AM–
9:50 AM Break, Networking & Vendor Fair

Breakout Sessions (select one)

- 9:50 AM –
11:20 AM
- **Navigating a Changing Medicaid Landscape: Sequencing Services & Planning for the Future**
Corinne DePersis - Family Navigation Program Manager, Family Voices Colorado
 - **Results Matter! Improving Outcomes for Young Children with Disabilities**
*Marcia Blum — Early Childhood Special Education, CDE
Melissa Taucher — Child Find Specialist, CDE*
 - **From Early Dispute Resolution to Dispute Resolution: Resolving Disputes in Special Education**
*Katherine Rains — Dispute Prevention & Assisted Resolution Supervisor, CDE
Erin Camper — BSN, RN, Parent Advisor & Trainer, PEAK Parent Center*
 - **Beyond the School Walls: Growing Together — Families, Schools, and the Path to Adulthood**
*Kacy Little Owl — Secondary Student Success Specialist, CDE
Jennifer Stewart — Owner, Breaking Expectations LLC & Transition Consultant*
 - **Advocating and Preparing for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education**
Shayna Laing — Program Manager, IN!
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11:20 AM –
12:55 PM Lunch & Remarks from the PEAK Parent Center Board

12:55 PM –
1:15 PM Break, Networking & Vendor Fair

Breakout Sessions (select one)

- 1:15 PM –
2:45 PM
- **Basics, Nuances, and Specifics of Special Education Eligibility.**
Jon Paul Burden Director of Special Ed., Mesa County Valley School District 51
 - **Building Belonging: Lessons from a Parent's Inclusion Journey**
Jen Keeton — Parent Advocate, Co-Host of the Starry Eyed Podcast & Vice President, NoCo Special Education PTA
 - **Utilizing Conflict to Build Trust in the IEP Process**
*Katherine Rains — Dispute Prevention & Assisted Resolution Supervisor, CDE
Erin Camper — BSN, RN, Parent Advisor & Trainer, PEAK Parent Center*
 - **Navigating a Changing Medicaid Landscape: Sequencing Services & Planning for the Future**
Corinne DePersis - Family Navigation Program Manager, Family Voices Colorado
 - **Strategies and Resources to Support Family Partnerships**
KiKi McGough - Family and Behavior Consultant, Family Engagement Advisory Council