

PARENT NAVIGATORS

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WESTSIDE SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT



For Parents; By Parents

INDIVIDUALIZE • INNOVATE • INCLUDE

WELCOME.

Westside Community Schools Department of Special Services would like to welcome you, the parent(s) of a child with a disability, to join other parents to connect, collaborate and navigate the world of special education and disability services. With the support of the district, parent-led sessions will offer caregivers an opportunity to learn, ask questions, and advocate on behalf of their child. From topics such as school-based services and IEP meeting preparation to post-secondary transition and community-based resources, each session will be structured to both share information and allow for parent dialogue. All sessions, intended for parents of all ages, will run from 11:00am - 12:15pm and include a brief presentation followed by facilitated Q&A. RSVP requested.

SESSION #1: Making the Most of Parent Teacher Conferences	September 24 (11:00am)
SESSION #2: Understanding My Child's IEP Progress Report	October 29 (11:00am)
SESSION #3: Clubs, Activities & Opportunities for My Child	November 19 (11:00am)
SESSION #4: What Your Child's IEP Manager Wishes You Knew	December 17 (11:00am)
SESSION #5: Community Resources & Partnerships	January 28 (11:00am)
SESSION #6: Extended School Year: Eligibility Basics	February 25 (11:00am)
SESSION #7: Preparing for Grade-Level Transition	March 25 (11:00am)
SESSION #8: What if We Disagree? Tips for Advocacy & Resolution	April 29 (11:00am)
SESSION #9: Need to Knows About Summer Opportunities	May 20 (11:00am)

Rachel Ray, Facilitator

Munroe-Meyer Institute



Rachel Ray, M.A., is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and has worked for MMI's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities since 2015. She is the director of the Trailblazer Program, an inclusive postsecondary education program that is a collaboration between the Munroe-Meyer Institute and the University of Nebraska-Omaha and is the Nebraska Think College State Coordinator. She also manages the Nebraska National Core Indicator and National Core Indicator Aging and Disabilities Surveys Project. She has been a higher education advocate for diverse students, especially students with disabilities, since 1994. Her research interests include the social, political, and economic construction of disability and student identity development. She holds a B.A. in English and Women's Studies and an M.A. in African American Studies and Education Policy and Leadership and is a parent of two former Westside graduates, one with autism and intellectual disabilities.

All sessions hosted at the Westside West Campus 3534 S. 108th Street. Omaha, NE

RSVP to: parent.navigators@westside66.net or call 402-390-2126

to participate in person or via WebEx