# Washington State Family to Family Health Information Center

## Newsletter #23 – January 2023

### How to Respond to School Bullying

## [January 2023 Calendar](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/calendar/)

All events are on-line unless denoted with \*

[Calling Autistic Parents at the Arc of King County](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/calling-autistic-parents/?instance_id=365)\* – Jan. 8

[Re-framing Challenging Behavior in Young Children](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/re-framing-challenging-behavior-in-young-children-workshop/?instance_id=1190) – Jan. 9

[DDA Services and Application Assistance](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/dda-services-and-application-assistance/?instance_id=1188) – Jan. 12

[Dads helping Dads](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/dads-helping-dads/?instance_id=1002) – Jan. 12

[Sharing Down Syndrome in Pierce County](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/sharing-down-syndrome-in-pierce-county-parents-night-in/?instance_id=241) – Jan. 13

[Cerebral Palsy Caregiver Support Group](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/cerebral-palsy-caregiver-support-group-2/?instance_id=836) – Jan. 16

[Virtual Advocacy Day IDD Briefing](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/virtual-advocacy-day-idd-briefing/?instance_id=1191) – Jan. 18

[Statewide Legislative Reception for People with IDD](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/virtual-statewide-legislative-reception-for-people-with-idd/?instance_id=1192) – Jan. 18

[WA State Sibling Connection](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/wa-state-sibling-connection/?instance_id=956) – Jan. 19

[Brunch and Learn “Need to Know” Webinar](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/brunch-and-learn-need-to-know-webinar/?instance_id=1195) – Jan. 20

[Kitsap County Parent Coalition Meeting](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/kitsap-county-parent-coalition-meeting-nurtured-heart-approach/?instance_id=1194) – Jan. 20

[Relatives as Parents Program in Shoreline](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/family-support-relatives-as-parents-program/?instance_id=977)\* – Jan. 24

[Familias Resilientes](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/familias-resilientes/?instance_id=668) – Jan. 24

[Social-Emotional Development for Children who are Deaf](Social-Emotional%20Development%20for%20Children%20who%20are%20Deaf) – Jan. 28

[Native Family Support Group](https://www.familyvoicesofwashington.org/event/native-family-support-group/?instance_id=1167) – Jan. 31

There are safeguards in place to protect children with disabilities from being bullied at school. Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects children with disabilities from bullying. [The Office for Civil Rights (OCR)](https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/index.html) is tasked with upholding these rights and a school district’s [Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Compliance Officer](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center/harassment-intimidation-and-bullying-hib/hib-compliance-officers-contact-list) is the one to contact if an incident has occurred.

If your child is bullied at school, you can contact your district’s [HIB Compliance Officer](https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/health-safety/school-safety-center/harassment-intimidation-and-bullying-hib/hib-compliance-officers-contact-list). They can explain your options and how to request a HIB complaint form. HIB violations include: physical harm to a student or a student’s property; actions that substantially disrupting a student’s education; actions that are so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or anything that substantially disrupting the orderly operation of school.

For more information, view the new video on bullying from PAVE, [Bullying at School: Key Points for Families and Students with Disabilities](https://wapave.org/bullying-at-school-key-points-for-families-and-students-with-disabilities/).

### Advocacy Month for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

This January there are several events occurring to support the advocacy efforts of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. One highly anticipated event around advocacy is on January 18th, when there will be the annual [Statewide IDD Legislative Reception](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdeCsqDgvGtdTeBb8wkoPnhnwrcTb6xGO). This is where Legislators will meet with constituents in breakout rooms by district, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.  To help participants prepare for this, the [Arc of Washington State](https://arcwa.org/) has a [Briefing on IDD Issues](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkcuuoqDgvGtx8YBxiPsMfQ-lUUW569Zl9) from 2:00 to 4:00pm, also on January 18th.  A number of the critical issues important to people with intellectual and or developmental disabilities will be discussed, including housing, supported living, and employment.

On January 25th there will be a advocacy meeting surrounding the issues of [Housing, Supported Living, Closing Rainier](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqdeGqpzgsHdyyWPI2d8fNqtnWx3dfLyQc). This discussion will focus on the Rainier School in Buckley, the state facility that [Disability Rights Washington is hoping to close amongst allegations of abuse and neglect](https://www.courierherald.com/news/disability-rights-group-sues-dshs-rainier-school/). The Arc of Washington will then lead a rally on the capitol steps in the afternoon to press for the closing of Rainier.