

# Special Education in Kentucky

Foundational Information for  
Kentucky Schools and Families



# Meet your hosts



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Kentucky Special Parent  
Involvement Network (KY-SPIN)



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Kentucky Department of  
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# This webinar will help you:

01

Grow your basic understanding of Special Education in Kentucky

02

Grow your knowledge of school-family partnership skills within special education

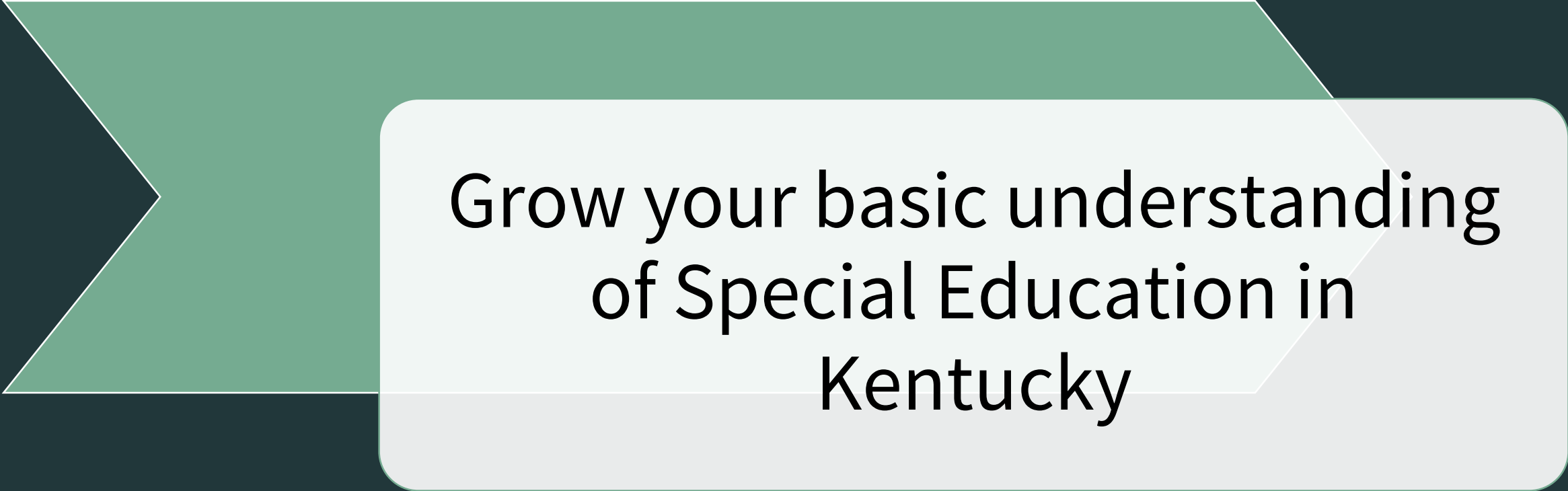
03

Grow your knowledge of Special Education resources

# Special Education Resource Round-up

- Bonus Resource: All the noted resources can be found on the Special Education Resource Round-up document.
- Icon indicates a related resource
- Link at end of presentation





Grow your basic understanding  
of Special Education in  
Kentucky

# Impacts of Policy and Regulation

## Federal regulation & guidance

Individuals with Disabilities  
Education Act (IDEA)  
Every Student Succeeds Act  
(ESSA)  
Office of Civil Rights (OCR)  
Department of Justice (DOJ)  
U.S. Department of Education

## State regulation & policy

Kentucky Administrative  
Regulations for Special  
Education Programs (KARs)  
Kentucky Academic  
Standards(KAS)  
KDE Guidance Documents

## Local policy and procedure

District and school level  
School-Based Decision  
Making (SBDM)  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Local resources

# What is the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)?



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The IDEA Part B is the federal law that gives qualified children with disabilities the right to receive specially designed instruction and related services in public schools

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The IDEA applies to children from ages 3 to 21

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Through the IDEA, students are assured a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

Kentucky  
Administrative  
Regulations for  
Special  
Education  
Programs  
(707 KAR)

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Govern special education  
programs in Kentucky

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Support the implementation  
of the IDEA

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Regulations cover a variety of  
special education related  
topics





# Local Policy and Procedure

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Kentucky has 171 school districts

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Support the implementation of  
the IDEA and the KARs

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Questions about a local policy or  
procedure? Contact your Director  
of Special Education (DoSE)



# What is Special Education?



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Special education is *instruction* that is specially designed to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

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Public schools are charged with providing special education and related services to eligible students with disabilities at no cost to their parents.

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The goal of special education is to make sure that each eligible student with a disability is provided equitable access to public education and provided with instruction, supports and services that help them achieve at high levels.

# Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) (707 KAR 1:290)



FAPE is highly individualized and is determined by the students Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

Local school districts are responsible for providing FAPE to students with disabilities.

Instruction must be specially designed to meet the specific needs of a child that result from their disability.

Each student's Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) must make specific decisions regarding the services to be provided.

# The ARC

(707 KAR 1:320, Section 3)



In Kentucky, the “IEP team” is called the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC).



The ARC works together to develop an individualized and high-quality IEP.



The ARC includes several members, *all* with valuable expertise in how the student learns best.

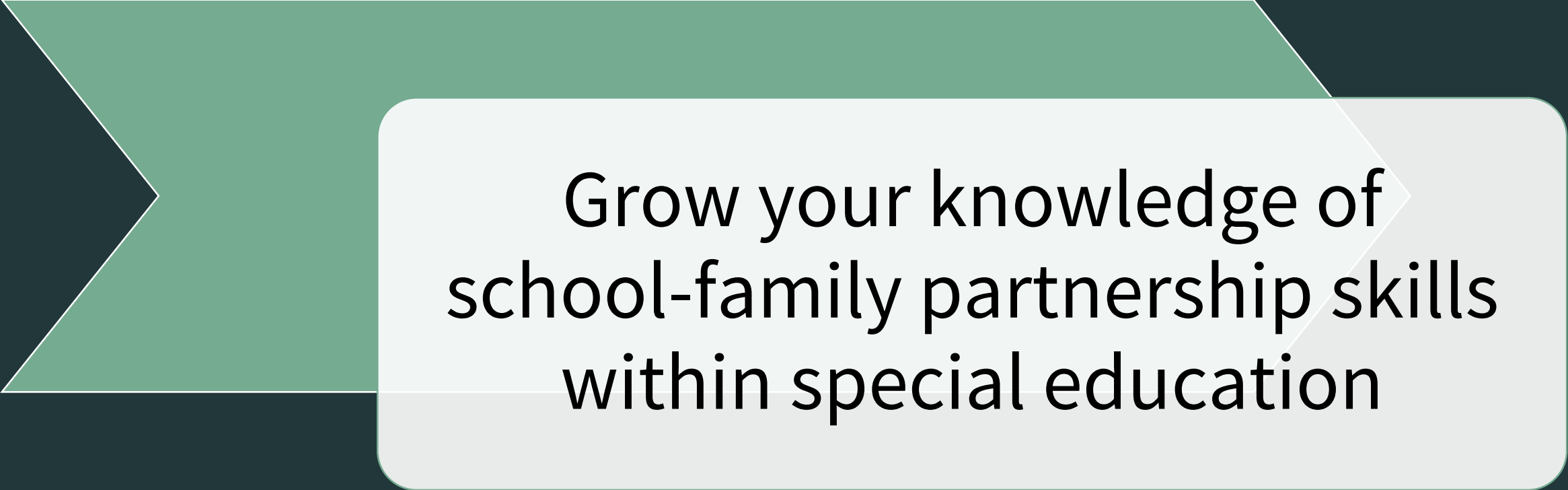
# What is an IEP? (707 KAR 1:320)



The Individualized Education Program (IEP) contains information about the child and the educational program designed to meet their unique needs.

The IEP sets out a plan for growth and progress in the academic, functional, social and emotional areas that are impacted by their disability.

IEPs are documentation of the decisions made by the ARC.



Grow your knowledge of  
school-family partnership skills  
within special education

# Importance of Partnership



Partnership among ARC members is an essential element of a well-developed IEP.



Both family and school-based members play a critical role in providing valuable expertise that informs decisions for the student.



The most successful partnerships have meaningful, two-way communication and respect.



Partnership extends beyond the annual ARC meeting.

# Meaningful, two-way communication: the ARC and beyond





# Effective Communication Tips



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Stay student-focused

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Ask questions

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Be an active listener

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Value and respect other members

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Express honesty

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Allow both discussion and disagreement

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Respect cultural differences

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Focus on strengths

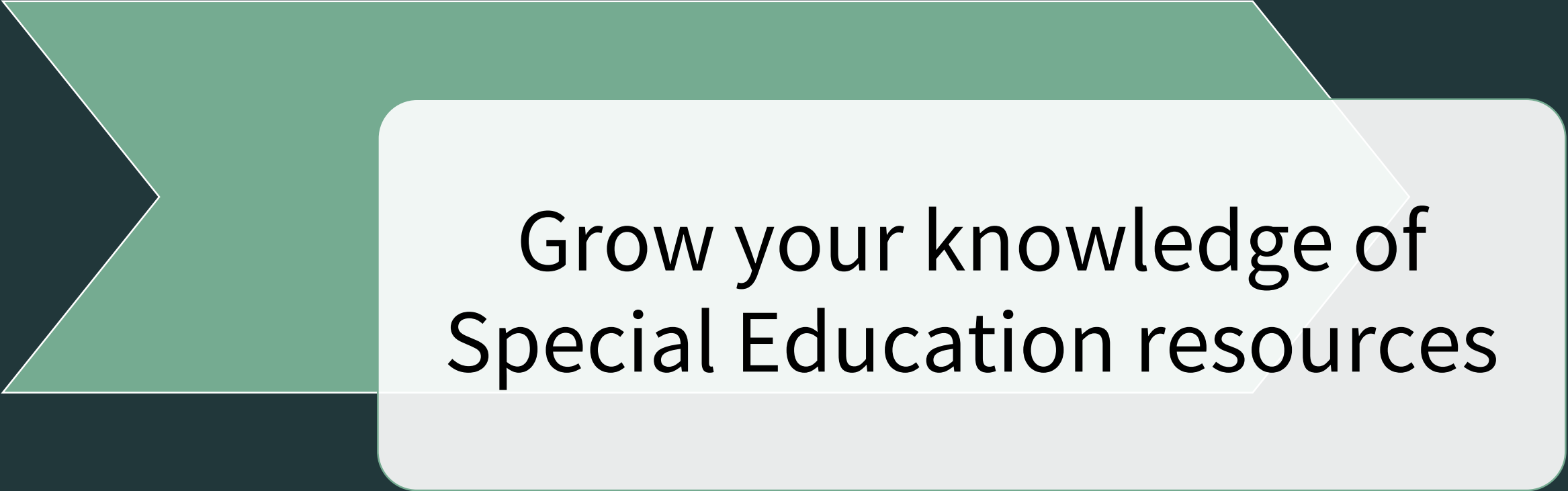
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Be complementary

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Be aware of verbal and non-verbal cues

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Grow your knowledge of  
Special Education resources

# Kentucky Special Parent Involvement Network (KY-SPIN)

- Kentucky's official Parent Training and Information (PTI) center
- The mission of KY-SPIN is to link families and individuals with disabilities to valuable resources that will enable them to live productive, fulfilling lives.
- Through “Peer to Peer” support, KY-SPIN helps families access needed information and resources. KY-SPIN has an extensive Video/Webinar Library



# Kentucky Collaborative for Families and Schools:

- Created to build and sustain engagement, support and resources for Kentucky families, schools and communities.
- Kentucky's Statewide Family Engagement Center



**Kentucky Collaborative  
for Families and Schools**

The Prichard Committee

# Office of Special Education and Early Learning (OSEEL)

- For parents and families
  - Parent and Family Rights
  - Parent and Family Resources
  - Parent and Family Toolbox
- For school-based professionals
  - Instructional Resources
  - Forms and Documents
  - Preschool and Primary Resources



# Resource Round-up



Don't forget about your bonus resource! All resources noted in this presentation can be found on the Special Education Resource Round-up document.



# Contact Information

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Thank you!

