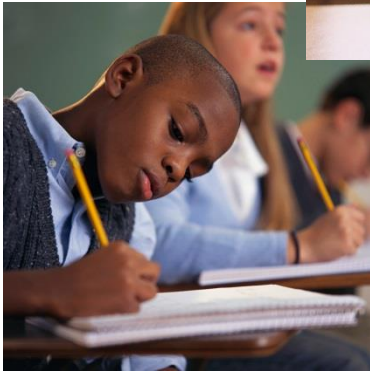


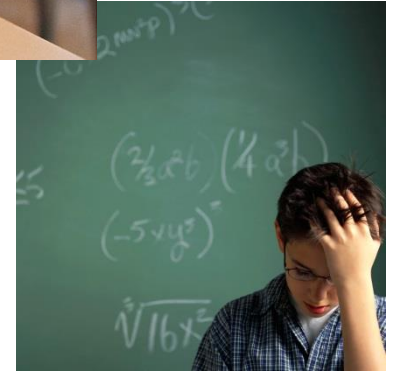
Educational Advocacy Certification Program



Tuesday, May 14, 6-8 pm

and

Tuesday, May 21, 6-8 pm



Presenters:

Jane Vollertsen

GAL, Education Advocate, VTL, Peer Mentor

Howard Marx

GAL, Education Advocate

**Leon County Court House Annex
1920 Thomasville Road
Tallahassee, FL 32303**

RSVP: Christine.Gornik@gal.fl.gov

Additional information on page 2

The GAL Program Office provided statewide guidelines to offer staff and volunteers with the information and tools to move into the "Action" and "Advanced" levels of Educational Advocacy. This is a 3 step process for current Guardian ad litem volunteers and staff.

Step 1 – Review the attached presentation and attached handouts. This will give staff and volunteers with a basic understanding on how to work within the school system in order to advocate for school stability, needed educational services, and participation in school activities that lead to a feeling of normalcy and well being for the child. This training was launched at the April Pre-Service training for our new volunteers and will continue to be provided as per statewide guidelines. *Even if you are not considering a certification in educational advocacy, this is the most current information as DOE policies have changed.*

Step 2 – Become an Educational Surrogate. (2 GAL CEUs) Some of you are already Educational Surrogates – this step is complete for you. For those of you who are not Educational Surrogates, this training is scheduled for May 14 (12-2 pm) and May 29 (5-7 PM) @ FDLRS, contact Chris Heron at heronc@leonschools.net for more information.

Step 3 – Complete the Advanced Educational Advocacy Program. (4 GAL CEUs) Attend two two-hour sessions, May 14 and 21, 6-8 pm, which will provide expanded training in the following topics:

- Individual Education Plans and what they mean
- ESE (Exceptional Student Education)/504 eligibility requirements & the 504 Plans
- Response to Intervention – What is it and what role can you play?
- Testing Requirements – National (ACT, PSAT, SAT), State (FCAT) and Local (BAT).
- How to access services mandated by the Interagency Agreement, i.e. transportation.
- Graduation requirements
- Student promotion and retention policies
- School District's policy for absences
- How to interpret a school report card
- What is the free and reduced lunch eligibility
- What is the local policy on bullying prevention
- Accessible services for LGBT students in Middle & High School

Please contact ChristineGornik@gal.fl.gov if have any questions, concerns, and/or would like to attend Step 3 of the training.