



August, 2010

The Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan (DSG) has an offer for you that you may find hard to refuse! We want to form a partnership with your school/district in order to expand resources for your staff and for our families at no cost to either party. It is a win-win proposition for both of us.

In our over 20 years of existence, we have found that parents and schools have similar concerns, common goals and require many of the same supports. Currently the thinking is "us" vs. "them" instead of a spirit that fosters collaboration and the students are getting lost in the divide of "Rights vs. Responsibility".

Our proposal is simple. Your school/district will appoint one qualified individual to be their Down Syndrome Specialist. The DSG will provide training opportunities, parent and staff educational materials, and quarterly award-winning newsletters to this designated person. The Down Syndrome Specialist in turn dialogues with the DSG with questions, concerns, and requests. Our streamlined approach provides an efficient, effective means to meet the informational needs of your district and our parents. We are extending our hand to your district to be a resource for your teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, nurses, and librarians.

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We have scheduled an overview breakfast for **September at 9:00am** to discuss our program in more detail. At the breakfast, you will receive an in-depth look into our program, have the ability to collaborate about the needs of your district, increase educator knowledge on best practices for serving students with Down syndrome and appoint someone from your school/district to be a Down Syndrome Specialist.

I hope you will take a few minutes to read the enclosed materials and to then assign a Down Syndrome Specialist for your district. One of our Education Advisory board members will contact you next week to discuss any questions and ask for your participation and support.

Best regards,

Paulette Duggins
Program Director

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Thank you for all that you do to provide quality education for our students with Down syndrome. The entire community benefits from your efforts.