

## WE BELIEVE IN PARTNERSHIPS

Working with school systems, community agencies and disability organizations helps improve outcomes for children and youth with disabilities. If you would like to partner with STEP on the outcomes listed here or propose another collaborative project, please contact us.

- « Increase Parent Participation
- « **Improve Outcomes for Students Exiting High School**
- « Ensure smooth transition from Early Intervention Programs
- « **Promote Effective Communication**
- « Reduce Special Education Referrals
- « **Reading & Math Improvement through Response to Intervention**
- « Identify and Resolve Areas of Non-Compliance
- « **Stretch Resources Through Partnerships**

Contact a regional office to establish a connection with STEP, request further information, and/or request a service.



Support and Training  
for Exceptional Parents

steps to a brighter  
future for children  
with disabilities

[www.tnstep.org](http://www.tnstep.org)

### Business Office:

712 Professional Plaza  
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(423) 639-0125  
(423) 636-8217 Fax

### West Tennessee

(901) 726-4334  
[westrtc@tnstep.org](mailto:westrtc@tnstep.org)

### Middle Tennessee

(615) 463-2310  
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### East Tennessee

(423) 639-0125, ext. 17  
[eastrtc@tnstep.org](mailto:eastrtc@tnstep.org)



A not-for-profit organization serving  
Tennessee families who have  
children and youth with disabilities

*a brighter future for children with disabilities*



*STEP's mission is to empower parents through information, training and support to become effective partners with professionals in planning appropriate educational programs for their children with disabilities.*

Toll free in TN: 1.800.280.7837 or Toll free Spanish: 1.800.975.2919



## WHO WE ARE

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc. (STEP) is a statewide not-for-profit organization established in 1989 to serve Tennessee families who have children and youth with disabilities. We provide information, training, and support services to parents and family members of children with disabilities, professional development to schools, and information to youth with disabilities. STEP houses the Parent Training Information Center (PTI) and administers a number of grants and initiatives to meet our mission.



## OUR SERVICES

STEP services are available to any parent or family member of a child or youth, birth through age 26, with a disability that has or may need special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Our training and information is free to parents.

We provide in-service training and professional development to school personnel. Depending on the funding source, there may be a fee for these services. Training events hosted by schools where families are invited are always FREE.

STEP also provides referral services to disability organizations, support groups, and community agencies.

Our services are made possible through grants from the U.S. Department of Education, the TN Department of Education, donations, foundations, other grants and the generous contributions of volunteers.

## WE BELIEVE IN PARENTS

The STEP team members are parents of children with disabilities and/or individuals with disabilities; therefore, we have personal passion for assisting parents, family members and youth to become the most effective advocates possible! We believe parents possess unique information about the development, nature and needs of their children. We are committed to providing the information parents need so they can speak up for (and with) their children and youth with disabilities.



## TRAINING AND INFORMATION

STEP offers multiple ways for parents and youth to become knowledgeable about special education rights and responsibilities and how to use the information effectively. Through training workshops, DVD's, webinars, personal assistance, and a website full of current news and resources you can learn:

- ★ How to communicate effectively at meetings.
- ★ How to prepare for life after high school.
- ★ How to develop an education plan that addresses social skills, behavior, academics and classroom settings.
- ★ How to become more involved in your child's education and ensure your child has equal access to educational services.
- ★ How to prepare for entry into the school system and transitions from grade to grade.
- ★ How to request evaluations and services.
- ★ How to discuss the need for related services such as speech

## SUPPORT SERVICES

STEP offers support services designed to help families and youth build skills to become effective participants in meetings where decisions are being made related to special education and access to an appropriate education. Our services are "customized" to align with the needs of the parent or youth we are serving. Our "planning" services include reviewing documents and planning strategies families can use to lead to positive outcomes for their children with disabilities.

## OUR PROCESS FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES AND YOUTH:

Informed



Empowered



Engaged