



Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
John Huppenthal

**For Immediate Release**

**CONTACT: Mary Marshall**  
**602-364-2425**  
**Mary.Marshall@azed.gov**

## **ADE partnering with nonprofit to improve parent information and family support in special education**

*Partnership between ADE and Raising Special Kids will provide increased support for parents with special needs children*

(Phoenix, Ariz. – May 6, 2013) On October 1, 2012, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and Raising Special Kids began forging a partnership to strengthen and improve the delivery of parent training and assistance in special education. This partnership is committed to providing a coordinated network to help parents of children with the full range of disabilities understand their roles and responsibilities in special education.

As of July 1, 2013, Raising Special Kids and the ADE Parent Information Network (PIN) will merge their parent training activities to create a “one-stop shop” for parents to increase their knowledge and skills for participation and decision-making in special education. The resources currently provided by the PIN, including documents, trainings, and the lending library, will be available through Raising Special Kids.

The July 1 merger will feature the following for parents, school districts and other professionals:

- Statewide parent information and training on various topics to assist parents in:
  - understanding the special education process

- working with professionals to understand and support their child
- learning advocacy skills to appropriately participate in meetings
- Special Education resource documents on a variety of topics
- A local, regional, and national disability resource directory
- Access to a DVD lending library featuring special education and disability topics
- Regional support teams in Northern Arizona, Central Arizona, Southern Arizona
- A toll-free help line for parents staffed by trained and knowledgeable specialists
- All information, training and support provided in English and in Spanish

For more information about the programs, please contact:

<p>Christopher Tiffany          Director of Family Support and Education          Raising Special Kids          602-242-4366  <a href="mailto:christophert@raisingspecialkids.org">christophert@raisingspecialkids.org</a></p>	<p>Oran Tkatchov          CSPD Director of Professional          Development          ESS / Arizona Department of Education          602-364-2066  <a href="mailto:Oran.Tkatchov@azed.gov">Oran.Tkatchov@azed.gov</a></p>
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**About the Arizona Department of Education (ADE):** ADE and its chief position, a publicly elected state Superintendent of Public Instruction, were created upon the ratification of the Arizona Constitution. The Superintendent of Public Instruction and the staff at ADE are charged with executing various education laws and State Board of Education policies; accurately distributing education funding to Arizona’s K-12 public school system; and helping schools comply with the many national and state laws and State Board of Education policies.

**About Raising Special Kids:** Raising Special Kids serves as a Family-to-Family Health Information Center funded by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau. Raising Special Kids is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization that provides support and information for parents of children, from birth to age 26, with a full range of disabilities and special health care needs. Programs are offered at no cost to families, and are available in English and Spanish.

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