



tourette syndrome association new york hudson valley chapter
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Dear Sir or Madam:

August 2010

As we know, changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* increased the responsibilities of school districts to properly educate their personnel in working effectively with children with disabilities. Once again this year I am writing to offer your school district the opportunity to receive a **free** in-service with precise information necessary to comply with IDEA - specifically in working with children with Tourette Syndrome. This in-service is appropriate for all teachers, clinical staff, nurses, and related service providers.

Tourette Syndrome (TS) is a neurological disorder characterized by motor and vocal tics. However it is almost always accompanied by co-existing conditions like ADHD, OCD, Sensory Processing Disorder, and Dysgraphia, among others. These associated disorders often create bigger challenges than the tics and verbalizations and these disorders are quite prevalent and have a greater incidence in our school districts than previously thought. Though many of your staff may have worked before with children with Tourette or ADHD, no two cases are alike and it can be difficult for school personnel to recognize the symptoms and choose the correct strategies. Educators need explicit training and information in order to create the best possible educational environment for both students and teachers.

To respond to this need the NY Hudson Valley Chapter of the Tourette Syndrome Association is providing both **free in-service training to staff and Youth Ambassador peer presentations to classrooms** for all local school districts. The NYHV-TSA is uniquely qualified to help educators understand how TS and the co-occurring disorders impact learning and functioning in the classroom and we can provide specific (and individualized) classroom strategies to help. In addition, our exciting new presentation by **TSA Youth Ambassadors** is available to you at no cost. Our Youth Ambassadors are teens with TS who have been trained to speak to the students in your classrooms. They focus on teaching understanding, sensitivity and tolerance of TS and its symptoms, while dispelling myths and stereotypes that are often attributed to this misunderstood disorder.

I urge you to take advantage of this no-cost opportunity to continue to have your district work proactively with the community in educating our children and look forward to discussing a presentation(s) schedule. Over 40 districts and schools have responded to our offer and we have had great success with our presentations.

You may reach me at (914) 693-7530 with any questions you may have and to arrange a convenient time for a meeting with your district.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Trichon

*IDEA 2004 Section 1400(c)(5) (E) "supporting high-quality, intensive preservice preparation and professional development for all personnel who work with children with disabilities in order to ensure that such personnel have the skills and knowledge necessary to improve the academic achievement and functional performance of children with disabilities"

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