

Whom Do I Contact?

Gail Kolvenbach
Parent Liaison
414-294-2999, Ext. 3010
kolvenbachg@cudahy.k12.wi.us

Dr. John W. Thomsen
Superintendent of Schools
414-747-3910
jthomse@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Dr. Rebecca Ribar
School Psychologist
414-486-6300
rribar@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Erin Robers
School Social Worker
414-747-3600
erobers@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Diana Krumenauer
Program Support Teacher
414-482-8400
dkrumen@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Suelyn Wittlieff
Pupil Services Secretary
414-482-8461
swittli@sfsd.k12.wi.us

Cheri Sylla
CESA #1 Parent Liaison Coordinator
262-787-9565

How Can WSPEI Help Connect You?

WSPEI is all about partnerships. WSPEI helps parents and school districts build positive working relationships leading to shared decision making and children's learning.

WSPEI Supports:

- ◇ Meaningful parent participation on IEP teams and in school advisory functions;
- ◇ Collaboration among general education, special education, Title I, pupil services and other programs in order to welcome and involve families;
- ◇ Collaboration with the twelve Regional Cooperative Education Service Agencies (CESAs);
- ◇ Information exchange and referrals to other agencies and organizations to provide families with a seamless system of services;
- ◇ Alignment with and access to state and federal initiatives.

Wisconsin Statewide Parent-Educator Initiative (WSPEI) is an Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Discretionary Grant funded by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (WDPI).

To reach WSPEI toll free, dial 1-877-844-4925. Ms. Mary Skadah, State Project Coordinator will answer or return your call to assist you or e-mail marys@cesa12.k12.wi.us.

Parent Liaison

Creating Partnerships Between
Parents and Educators for
Students with Disabilities



St. Francis School District

4225 South Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235
Phone: (414) 747-3900
Fax: (414) 482-7198
<http://www.stfrancisschools.org>

Developed October 7, 2011

**Partnership:
District Parent Liaison and
the St. Francis School District**

Who is our Parent Liaison?

**Gail Kolvenbach
District Parent Liaison Biography:**

Gail Kolvenbach resides in St. Francis, Wisconsin with her husband of 31 years, Paul, along with their children: Paul, III (age 25); Heather (age 24); Deric (age 23); and Bobby (age 20).

Gail's desire to make a difference is evidenced through her participation and work supporting collaboration and parent / family involvement. Gail serves on various committees and boards as a community advocate / connector searching for people and resources to share with others. She has co-facilitated parent trainings with the CESA I Parent Liaison Coordinator and continues to co-facilitate trainings statewide through a variety of disability related organizations.

**What Parents Can Expect
From the District
Parent Liaison**

**Parent Liaisons are parents that
have received training about
Special Education through
Wisconsin Statewide
Parent-Educator Initiative
(WSPEI) and who:**

- ◆ Mentor parents to become educated and equal participants in the IEP process;
- ◆ Support family involvement activities, including parent advisory groups, information groups, and focus groups;
- ◆ Help schools contact parents to aid with the State Performance Plan Indicator requirements;
- ◆ Support individual schools in building strategies for parent involvement.

**Characteristics of a
District Parent Liaison:**

- ◆ Parent of a child with a disability or someone who has knowledge of special education;
- ◆ Good communication skills and strong interpersonal skills;
- ◆ Positive attitude and willingness to promote collaborative relationships between families and schools;
- ◆ Ability to maintain confidentiality with students, parents, and educators.

**What Resources are
Available to
Parents and Educators**

**Information, agency contracts,
books, pamphlets, and CD/DVDs on
issues concerning special education,
parenting, and disabilities are free to
individuals and can be ordered in
quantity from the WSPEI website:**

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sped/parent.htm>

**Parent-friendly materials are also
available in Spanish and Hmong by
calling WSPEI at:**

1-877-844-4925

**For more information on agencies,
national resources or contact
information, visit:**

<http://www.stfrancisschools.org>