

Issue: Sept. 2008

## About Special Kids



Visit our website, [www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org).



### Contact Us

About Special Kids (ASK)

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### Recognizing Businesses

There are a lot of companies in Indiana that help families with special needs. Some create medical devices or pharmaceuticals, some offer great insurance packages, some give loans to families, some provide advice about legal matters or health. Tell us how you've benefited from a company's support. We want to recognize great companies, and we want to reach out to companies that wish to sponsor our work.

Call us at (800) 964-4746 or email us at [familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org](mailto:familynetw@aboutspecialkids.org) to share your ideas about businesses to recognize or

## INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### SPECIAL EDUCATION RULES TITLE 511 ARTICLE 7 RULES 32 - 47

Effective August 13, 2008

### Article 7

The updated Article 7 took effect on August 13, 2008. This document may be obtained on the Internet by accessing the Indiana Department of Education's website, [www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov). You may also obtain a printed copy by writing or calling:

Indiana Educational Resource Center  
7725 North College Avenue  
Indianapolis, IN 46240-2504  
1-800-833-2198

About Special Kids is currently scheduling several Article 7/IEP trainings throughout Indiana. This training covers all of Article 7, not just the changes. Visit our website calendar at [www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org) often for updated dates and locations.

IN\*SOURCE also provides Article 7 trainings. You can find their training calendar on their website at [www.insource.org](http://www.insource.org) or you can call 1-800-332-4433 to speak to someone at IN\*SOURCE.

### Welfare Modernization Roll-out

by: Wendy Woodard, Pediatric Resident

A lot of Hoosier families right now are frustrated by the changes taking place in Medicaid and food-stamp enrollment. The "welfare modernization" program initiated by Gov. Mitch Daniels began its roll-out in October of last year. It began with counties surrounding Kokomo and Marion, and expanded last May to the Evansville and Fort Wayne areas. The changes haven't yet taken place in Marion County. The changes were initiated in an

recruit on behalf of our cause!

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## Resource Spotlight: IEP Free

WWW.IEPFree.com has over 4000 free Goals and Objectives (IEP-ITP) each with changeable benchmarks. The Idea Statements are spread out over seven subjects (Domains) and four functional levels.

Teachers, parents and students can now access objectives directly from this Web Site. Input key words, phrases, or test names in the search engine to find just the correct objectives for your students needs. Copy and paste any information you want, then modify the objectives (examples) to exactly describe the needs of your students. The website also has a step by step guide to writing IEP's.

For more great resources, visit our online Resource Directory at [www.aboutspecialkids.org](http://www.aboutspecialkids.org).

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## FSSA Receives Approval to Expand Medicaid Coverage: Expansion Allows Indiana to Cover Thousands

More Hoosier children are now eligible for health insurance coverage. The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced that the federal government has approved the state's request to expand Medicaid (State Children's Health Insurance Program). This program is effective October 1, 2008. The approval means approximately 10,000 more Hoosier children will receive coverage.

In January, FSSA asked the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to expand SCHIP as a part of the Indiana Check-up Plan which passed in 2007 with tremendous bi-partisan support led by Representative

effort to make enrollment more efficient and accessible to Hoosiers. However, many claim the plan has back-fired, since Medicaid and food-stamps enrollment has decreased in affected counties, implying that people who need these services are unable to complete the enrollment process under the new system.

What has changed?

- Applications for Medicaid, food-stamps, and other welfare benefits are now done primarily over the phone or by computer on-line. Face-to-face interviews for assistance are mostly being replaced with call centers and computers.
- Individual cases are no longer assigned to a single caseworker, so questions are channeled through call center operators.

What problems are people facing?

- Long holding times on the phone
- Limited or no internet access
- Inability to speak to the same person twice when calling about enrollment
- Lost documents

Supporters of the changes claim that the problems people are encountering are growing pains that will be worked out in time, resulting in overall improvements in the system. Mitch Daniels promises that modernizing the welfare system in Indiana will mean less expensive services, better access, and fewer errors made. In addition, the changes are expected to save the state a lot of money which can then be put towards the Governor's Healthy Indiana Plan, which will provide health coverage for previously uninsured Hoosiers.

However, many others believe the new program was poorly planned and does not meet the needs of the public. The response from the public in affected counties has not been positive. Whether these obstacles are truly just growing pains or faults in the new system has yet to be determined. In the meantime, roll-out has been halted while the problems are addressed.

If you are struggling with applying for Medicaid for your child, here are some places to go for help:

- Indiana Family Helpline 1-800-433-0746
- Hoosier Healthwise Helpline 1-800-889-9949
- Ask to talk to a social worker at your child's primary care clinic

If you have a child with special needs who needs access to Medicaid or other health insurance, call About Special Kids at 1-800-974-4746

Charlie Brown (D) and Senator Pat Miller (R). Families who earn up to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is approximately \$53,000 for a family of four, are now eligible.

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