Welcome to the Presentation

COVID-19 Update with Commissioner Russell Johnston

May 6th, 2020

In Partnership with:
Pam Nourse, FCSN Executive Director
Beth Tremblay Hall, SPaN President

Coordinated by:
Lisa Lapinski, Esq., SPaN Vice President of Programming
Tim Sindelar, Esq., MA Attorneys for Students Educational Rights
Webinar Agenda

- Introduction: Lisa Lapinski, Esq., VP Programming, SPaN
- Presentation by: Commissioner Russell Johnston
- Q&A with: Commissioner Russell Johnston
- Questions moderated by:
  - Elizabeth Bostic, FCSN Board Member
  - Tim Sindelar, Esq.
- Closing remarks: Commissioner Russell Johnston

Russell Johnston, Ph.D has served as a Senior Associate Commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s since August 2014. There, he manages the state’s accountability and assistance system for all public schools and districts to support their work to raise achievement for all students, and oversees the implementation of various initiatives to assess effectiveness, monitor improvement, and identify appropriate interventions.

Johnston, who began his career as a special education teacher and administrator, also led the West Springfield Public Schools from 2010-2014. In West Springfield, Johnston led work to increase the depth and rigor of the district’s curriculum; to create a collaborative process between school committee members, administrators, and the local teachers’ union to promote student learning and effectively implement the state’s new educator evaluation system; and to reach out to and engage families to address students’ barriers to learning.

After graduating from DePaul University, Johnston served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps as a Language Arts teacher in Phoenix, Arizona and a special education instructor in Mobile, Alabama. He then was an elementary special education teacher in Newton, Massachusetts for five years before heading the elementary special education department for the Wellesley Public Schools. In 2004, Johnston earned a Doctorate of Philosophy and Education Leadership from Boston College. That same year, he became administrator of special services for the West Springfield Public Schools, a role he held until becoming superintendent in 2010. He and his family reside in Melrose, Massachusetts.
**Technical problems**
- Audio: After checking all your settings, try connecting with your phone. Go to the audio icon and follow the dial-in instructions and remember to turn off the sound on your computer.
- Submit a chat for technical support

**Submit Questions**
- A Q&A session will follow the presentation
- Submit your questions using the Q&A icon throughout the webinar
- We will attempt to get to as many questions as possible and may combine questions for efficiency

**Zoom Settings**

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It is our intention to share this recording online. The Live webinar is taking place on 5/6/20.

The information shared this morning, is our best effort to keep you informed with the information we have at this point in time.

This presentation should not be considered legal advice for any specific case, as each case needs to be considered individually.
On Sale Today:

Annual Same Side of the Table Panel
Tuesday, May 19, 2020
$10 Members/ $15 Non-Members

2020 Special Education School Catalog
$27.00 includes shipping

Scheduling Updates:

Mental Health First Aid
Will be Rescheduled
Full Day Event

SPaN is pleased to partner with the Federation for Children with Special Needs to offer this program.

Space is limited
offered to SPaN Members and SESPs
**Networking Opportunities**

**Online Case Discussion Groups** (in response to COVID-19)
- Thursday May 7th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
  Led by Seetha Burtner & Carol Silva
- Thursday May 14th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
  Led by Sandra Fitzpatrick – The Business of Advocacy
- Thursday May 21st from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
  Led by Seetha Burtner & Carol Silva
- Thursday May 28th from 12:00 to 2:00 pm
  Led by Jen Warren & Cynthia Moore - The Business of Advocacy

**IEP Clinic Opportunity**
- You must be a current SPaN member
  - Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School’s SEPAC
    RESCHEDULED to Saturday September 26, 2020
    To sign up: Register on the portal with your member login

More information available under Networking on www.spanmass.org

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**SPaN COVID-19**

- Visit: [www.SPaNmass.org/covid-19](http://www.SPaNmass.org/covid-19)
- Email covid19@spanmass.org with resources, for Advocates, Parents, and Special Education Teachers
- Public outreach such as programs like this one today
- Online Case Discussion Groups
- Partnering with the Federation for Children with Special Needs and The Arc of Massachusetts
Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc.

www.spanmass.org
info@spanmass.org
Phone: 508-655-7999

Ask us about the following volunteer opportunities:

SPaN Committees
IEP Clinics/Mentorship Program
SPaN Exhibit tables
School Fair

How to contact us:

FCSN COVID-19

- Our Call Center is open and taking calls! Fill out the intake form on our website, www.fcsn.org

- Family TIES is providing information about and referrals to early intervention programs. Call 800-905-TIES (8437)

- Check out the FCSN website for FAQs and other important resources, fcsn.org. New information is provided daily
FCSN COVID-19

FCSN daily Facebook Live events at 2:00pm. All sessions are recorded and can be accessed at any time:

- MassPAC Mondays
- Transition Tuesdays
- Wellness Wednesdays
- Thriving Thursdays
- Facts and Family Fridays

FCSN COVID-19

Starting Tuesday, March 31, FCSN will begin posting webinars of our most popular trainings on our website, fcsn.org. Keep checking as more webinars will be added.

- Basic Rights
- Basic Rights Transitions
- Planning a Life
- How to Advocate for Your Child
- Let’s Get Organized
- Health Care Transitions
How to contact us:

Federation For Children with Special Needs
www.fcsn.org
fcsninfo@fcsn.org
Phone: 617 236-7210 or 800 331 0688

Parent Training and Information Center
Family Support Center
Health Advocacy Center
Recruitment Training and Support Center for Special Education Surrogate Parents

For questions, additional information, and concerns, you can call:
- Your IEP Team/point of contact (always reach out to your district first)
- Your local SEPAC
- Information hotlines:
  Federation for Children with Special Needs (FSCN) at (800) 331-0688
  Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC):
    English: (617) 357-8431, ext. 3224
    Spanish: (617) 357-8431, ext. 3237
Thank you for your continued Support!

Beth Tremblay Hall  
President, SPaN, Inc.

Pam Nourse  
Executive Director, FCSN