

## Tips for how to use PWSA (USA)'s Wyatt Special Education Advocacy Training (WSEAT)

### Medical Professionals

We are pleased you are visiting the WSEAT because medical professionals play an important role in making sure a child with PWS receives the appropriate educational supports and services - based on their disability. It is important to encourage parents to share the PWS diagnosis with the child's IEP Team. The goal of the IEP process is to create an individualized education plan based on a child's disability. Students with PWS have many unique needs the school will not address, or will be resistant to address, without knowing the child has PWS. Sharing the diagnosis does not determine placement and services. That is the responsibility of the IEP team. The IEP team includes parents so they can advocate for their child's needs and contribute to the individualized education plan (IEP) required by the IDEA.

In 2015, the American Academy of Pediatrics released a clinical report, *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for Children With Special Educational Needs* which outlines ways a medical provider can support the education of a student with a disability. The report is available at:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/6/e1650>

The WSEAT can help medical professionals in several ways including:

1. Medical professionals can recommend parents of a school aged patient with PWS:
  - a. Visit the WSEAT web page to learn more about the special education system, how to manage PWS school challenges, and ways to effectively advocate for their child.
  - b. Contact PWSA (USA) to speak with a Family Support Counselor who can provide a range of services, assistance, and information to parents with questions about school issues.
2. Medical professionals in the PWS community can view the Modules 1-2 and 5-7 to learn more about the special education system and special education advocacy. The more medical professionals know about the special education process the better equipped they will be to support the educational needs of patients with PWS.