

1 00:00:14:00 00:00:15:28 **DR. JAMES BRUSH,**
2 00:00:16:00 00:00:22:07 Thank you for coming. I'm Dr. Jim Brush.
3 00:00:22:09 00:00:25:03 I'm a Child Psychologist.
4 00:00:25:05 00:00:28:01 I had a private practice in Cincinnati for
26 years.
5 00:00:28:03 00:00:30:29 My wife decided that she wanted a new
adventure, so
6 00:00:31:01 00:00:33:14 she joined the Foreign Service.
7 00:00:33:16 00:00:35:22 I closed my practice and followed her at
first to
8 00:00:35:24 00:00:38:14 Rwanda, Angola, and then on to Ankara,
where I had
9 00:00:38:16 00:00:41:27 very little to do, and then fortunately, the
10 00:00:41:29 00:00:44:04 State Department had just decided that they
wanted
11 00:00:44:06 00:00:46:17 to start a new program, called the Child and
12 00:00:46:19 00:00:49:11 Family Program because, except for various
13 00:00:49:13 00:00:51:26 offices, including the Office of Overseas
Schools,
14 00:00:51:28 00:00:54:11 our new program began almost exactly a
15 00:00:54:13 00:00:57:24 year and a half ago in June.
16 00:00:57:26 00:01:01:15 The preceding six months, we were putting
it
17 00:01:01:17 00:01:04:08 together with policies and procedures and
slowly
18 00:01:04:10 00:01:07:25 taking on work that had been done by other
people,
19 00:01:07:27 00:01:13:09 other groups, and putting it into our
program.
20 00:01:13:11 00:01:16:15 I heard you talk about Legos.
21 00:01:16:17 00:01:18:25 As a result of all of our moves, we finally
emptied our storage
22 00:01:18:27 00:01:22:18 shed over the weekend and I found... one of the
biggest
23 00:01:22:20 00:01:25:19 tools I had in my private practice was Legos,
24 00:01:25:21 00:01:28:24 and I found my two huge tubs of Legos,
which
25 00:01:28:26 00:01:30:26 I had accumulated from neighborhood boys who
had
26 00:01:30:28 00:01:33:11 grown up with my sons, and as they grew up
and didn't
27 00:01:33:13 00:01:36:25 want their Legos anymore, I accumulated
some of them,
28 00:01:36:27 00:01:40:03 so I had a huge load of Legos, which I'm
29 00:01:40:05 00:01:42:06 excited to bring to my office, although I'm
not
30 00:01:42:08 00:01:43:26 sure who will use them at this point
because the
31 00:01:43:28 00:01:47:06 conversations that I have with children and
32 00:01:47:08 00:01:49:24 teenagers now are on DVC, so I kind of have
to
33 00:01:49:26 00:01:51:28 figure out how to integrate Legos into that
process.
34 00:01:52:25 00:01:57:12 The Child and Family Program will eventually
35 00:01:57:14 00:02:00:27 have two Child Psychiatrists, two Child
Psychologists.
36 00:02:00:29 00:02:03:17 I am one of them; another one is coming.

37 00:02:03:19 00:02:07:25 We've had another one but she retired, and we had
38 00:02:07:27 00:02:10:24 one Child Psychiatrist, but he retired.
39 00:02:10:26 00:02:12:29 We seem to be the place that people come to retire from.
40 00:02:13:01 00:02:15:14 I'm not sure why.
41 00:02:15:16 00:02:19:23 We also will have an additional Clinical Child Social Worker.
42 00:02:19:25 00:02:21:26 That means...she's not a child but she's a
43 00:02:21:28 00:02:24:01 Social Worker, experienced in children.
44 00:02:24:03 00:02:26:20 But Emili Kuchler, who is also a Clinical Social Worker
45 00:02:26:22 00:02:29:24 with vast experience with children,
46 00:02:29:26 00:02:31:22 and I'll let her introduce herself in just a second.
47 00:02:31:24 00:02:34:20 And then we have Caitlin Galiker, who comes to us
48 00:02:34:22 00:02:38:24 from Legal Aid, where she was involved for 15 years
49 00:02:38:26 00:02:42:20 in representing, or being a part of representing,
50 00:02:42:22 00:02:46:09 children who were, in some way or another, involved
51 00:02:46:11 00:02:49:24 in the legal system, usually with dependency
52 00:02:49:26 00:02:52:03 and abuse kinds of situations.
53 00:02:52:05 00:02:54:08 Emili, talk about yourself.
54 00:02:54:10 00:02:55:20 **EMILI M. KUCHLER, MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES:**
55 00:02:55:22 00:02:57:22 Hello. Good morning everyone. Welcome.
56 00:02:57:24 00:02:59:26 As Jim said, I'm Emili Kuchler.
57 00:02:59:28 00:03:01:18 I'm been with the Child and Family Program for the
58 00:03:01:20 00:03:03:22 last two years.
59 00:03:03:24 00:03:06:06 Just like Jim and Caitlin, we both started in the
60 00:03:06:08 00:03:09:17 program, so we've seen, you know, all the
61 00:03:09:19 00:03:12:20 evolvement of the program.
62 00:03:12:22 00:03:16:03 And basically, like we were talking not long ago
63 00:03:16:05 00:03:19:01 how it has taken off, which I feel is going in a
64 00:03:19:03 00:03:22:16 very good direction.
65 00:03:22:18 00:03:25:16 Hopefully we will get that continued support soon.
66 00:03:25:18 00:03:28:01 Just to give you a little bit more information about
67 00:03:28:03 00:03:33:10 my background, I have been working in Clinical Social
68 00:03:33:12 00:03:37:24 Work for about 17-18 years.
69 00:03:37:26 00:03:39:27 I have two children.
70 00:03:39:29 00:03:42:14 My oldest is 25.
71 00:03:42:16 00:03:45:00 My youngest is almost 18.
72 00:03:45:02 00:03:47:04 She's a senior in high school.
73 00:03:47:06 00:03:49:27 I have one of each, a boy and girl.
74 00:03:49:29 00:03:57:25 [inaudible] And I am a wife of an Air Force retiree.
75 00:03:57:27 00:04:01:01 My son actually was serving in the military,

76 00:04:01:03 00:04:03:20 so I am a mother of a veteran as well.
77 00:04:03:22 00:04:06:18 I also share with you the experience of
moving
78 00:04:06:20 00:04:09:24 around and going to different places and
79 00:04:09:26 00:04:12:11 having to start all over again, over and
over and over.
80 00:04:12:13 00:04:17:08 So I can share in the joys and all the
challenges.
81 00:04:17:10 00:04:21:13 I've worked with the Department of Defense,
82 00:04:21:15 00:04:23:16 the Department of Veterans Affairs, prior to
coming
83 00:04:23:18 00:04:27:14 to the Department of State, in a variety of
roles,
84 00:04:27:16 00:04:31:07 anywhere from, you know, Family Support Program
coordination,
85 00:04:31:09 00:04:35:15 spouse relocation, transition assistance,
spouse employment,
86 00:04:35:17 00:04:39:17 direct mental health with adolescents and young
adults,
87 00:04:39:19 00:04:43:06 as well as older adults.
88 00:04:43:08 00:04:46:10 And, you know, clinical care for the
[inaudible].
89 00:04:46:12 00:04:49:00 So, coming to the CFP, we do, I think, a
little bit
90 00:04:49:02 00:04:52:22 of everything, but our main focus is to be
here,
91 00:04:52:24 00:04:57:29 a support program for children and families,
92 00:04:58:01 00:05:01:01 particularly with special needs.
93 00:05:01:03 00:05:05:10 We'll talk more about that soon.
94 00:05:05:12 00:05:07:18 We are also...just like the Office of Overseas
Schools,
95 00:05:07:20 00:05:10:23 we have taken primary regions that we
cover.
96 00:05:10:25 00:05:13:25 Right now, we are sort of short-staffed so
we're
97 00:05:13:27 00:05:17:04 pretty much kind of overlapping all around
the
98 00:05:17:06 00:05:19:23 world, you know, in different posts.
99 00:05:19:25 00:05:24:14 But I primarily cover the Western Hemisphere.
100 00:05:24:28 00:05:29:13 **DR. BRUSH:** Yeah, Emili's our expert...oh
you have that.
101 00:05:29:15 00:05:32:14 (laughing) Emili's our expert in South America
102 00:05:32:16 00:05:35:05 and Central America particularly.
103 00:05:35:07 00:05:36:25 But also in Canada.
104 00:05:37:08 00:05:39:17 **MS. KUCHLER:** Correct, and the Caribbean.
105 00:05:39:19 00:05:42:28 So, DEA, you know, and TSA...I've worked with
a
106 00:05:43:00 00:05:46:14 lot of your employees and their families.
107 00:05:46:16 00:05:50:29 They are also in other parts of the world, so
we
108 00:05:51:01 00:05:53:22 kind of share around.
109 00:05:53:24 00:05:55:26 And Jim will tell you a little bit more about
the
110 00:05:55:28 00:05:58:11 region that he covers and then also what is
the
111 00:05:58:13 00:06:01:08 focus of our program and what other areas we
also address.

112 00:06:01:10 00:06:06:02 So I'm glad to be here and I hope that we will be
113 00:06:06:04 00:06:10:13 able to answer some of your questions.
114 00:06:10:28 00:06:13:07 **DR. BRUSH:** Let me just say that Caitlin, who
115 00:06:13:09 00:06:15:01 unfortunately couldn't be here today
because she has
116 00:06:15:03 00:06:17:21 a sick child at home, covers Africa.
117 00:06:17:23 00:06:19:26 She has all of Africa to herself.
118 00:06:19:28 00:06:22:14 And, as a result of retirement and people
119 00:06:22:16 00:06:25:00 moving around and our inability to get
security
120 00:06:25:02 00:06:27:23 clearances done quickly, I have the rest
of the world,
121 00:06:27:25 00:06:33:19 which has become somewhat of a challenge at
times.
122 00:06:35:24 00:06:39:17 We endeavor to get back to some kind of
regional
123 00:06:39:19 00:06:41:29 representation where you'll contact one of
us
124 00:06:42:01 00:06:44:22 because we're experts in that region, but
right now,
125 00:06:44:24 00:06:47:23 that's kind of fallen apart as we're three
126 00:06:47:25 00:06:50:23 people trying to do the job of seven.
127 00:06:50:25 00:06:53:21 Do you want to do the next slide?
128 00:06:53:23 00:06:57:10 Okay, the thing to understand about the
lay
129 00:06:57:12 00:07:00:18 of the land is that the United States is 50
years
130 00:07:00:20 00:07:03:21 ahead of the rest of the world in
understanding and
131 00:07:03:23 00:07:06:01 addressing children with special
educational needs.
132 00:07:06:03 00:07:13:02 The rest of the world is even still not
ready to
133 00:07:13:04 00:07:16:04 join the party on that.
134 00:07:16:06 00:07:18:15 The rest of the world does not believe
necessarily in
135 00:07:18:17 00:07:19:15 inclusion.
136 00:07:19:17 00:07:21:15 What the rest of the world tends to do is
segregate
137 00:07:21:17 00:07:25:02 children according to their abilities and
needs,
138 00:07:25:04 00:07:26:05 or perceived needs.
139 00:07:26:21 00:07:29:18 And we've gone to an inclusion model now in
the
140 00:07:29:20 00:07:32:16 United States for about 20 to 25 years.
141 00:07:32:18 00:07:34:16 And before then, we had special educational
142 00:07:34:18 00:07:37:27 classrooms, with a lot of integration into
143 00:07:37:29 00:07:39:01 mainstream classrooms.
144 00:07:39:03 00:07:41:18 So we have a long track record in the United
145 00:07:41:20 00:07:45:02 States, second to no...I mean, there's no
other
146 00:07:45:04 00:07:46:20 country that even comes close.
147 00:07:46:22 00:07:51:03 Canada maybe somewhat is where we are.
148 00:07:51:05 00:07:55:00 Australia to some extent is also where we
are.
149 00:07:55:02 00:07:58:27 Europe: it might sound surprising but you

can't

150 00:07:58:29 00:08:02:05 expect to go to Europe and have schools that
151 00:08:02:07 00:08:05:18 necessarily are happy about addressing
special
152 00:08:05:20 00:08:06:18 educational needs.
153 00:08:06:28 00:08:09:25 Now having said that, the Child and Family
Program
154 00:08:09:27 00:08:12:22 and the Office of Overseas Schools, and the
Office of
155 00:08:12:24 00:08:14:25 Overseas Schools even before we came on the
156 00:08:14:27 00:08:19:02 scene, have been working very hard to
convince
157 00:08:19:04 00:08:22:09 international schools that serve our
children to
158 00:08:22:11 00:08:25:22 start special needs programs.
159 00:08:25:24 00:08:28:14 And it's really quite easy to do.
160 00:08:28:16 00:08:31:04 It's just convincing them that, one, it's
easy; two,
161 00:08:31:06 00:08:33:08 it's not going to drain their resources; and
162 00:08:33:10 00:08:36:17 three, it's not going to affect their
prestige; and
163 00:08:36:19 00:08:39:04 four, they can actually make money doing it.
164 00:08:39:28 00:08:43:25 We have a significant amount of money
attached
165 00:08:43:27 00:08:45:25 to our kids in the form of the special needs
166 00:08:45:27 00:08:46:28 allowance.
167 00:08:47:00 00:08:49:26 And American companies or other international
168 00:08:49:28 00:08:53:04 companies that believe in serving families
also will
169 00:08:53:06 00:08:56:22 tend to follow our model in providing
funds for
170 00:08:56:24 00:08:58:22 children with special educational needs.
171 00:08:58:24 00:09:02:23 So it actually can be a profit center for
schools
172 00:09:02:25 00:09:05:24 to attend to children with special
educational needs,
173 00:09:05:26 00:09:07:24 but it's still been a rough sell.
174 00:09:07:26 00:09:10:20 So there are pockets in the world where we have
175 00:09:10:22 00:09:14:14 schools that are really excellent, well-
resourced.
176 00:09:14:16 00:09:18:08 And there's other places where it's
barren, a
177 00:09:18:10 00:09:22:12 barren wasteland, and a lot of resistance from
the
178 00:09:22:14 00:09:25:20 schools around providing for special
educational
179 00:09:25:22 00:09:26:20 needs.
180 00:09:26:22 00:09:28:20 And it's not always where you'd predict.
181 00:09:28:22 00:09:32:20 So there's some places in the world that
would seem
182 00:09:32:22 00:09:35:24 unlikely, and yet those are the schools that
have
183 00:09:35:26 00:09:37:23 great special educational programs.
184 00:09:37:25 00:09:39:23 Other places where you'd think, "Oh, well,
it's a
185 00:09:39:25 00:09:43:02 no-brainer," and it's like there's nothing
there.

186 00:09:43:05 00:09:45:17 However, I do...we're making headway.
187 00:09:45:19 00:09:48:07 Tom Shearer and I...Tom Shearer is with the
188 00:09:48:09 00:09:49:07 Office of Overseas Schools.
189 00:09:49:09 00:09:52:08 He and I attended a conference of the
Central
190 00:09:52:10 00:09:55:12 and Eastern European Schools Association and
191 00:09:55:14 00:09:58:26 promoted this idea, and as a result of that
simple
192 00:09:58:28 00:10:04:10 step, and Tom's ability to demonstrate to
schools how
193 00:10:04:12 00:10:07:02 easy it is to form a program, several
schools
194 00:10:07:04 00:10:09:12 came on board with a commitment to offer
195 00:10:09:14 00:10:10:19 special needs education.
196 00:10:11:00 00:10:13:12 Emili just recently went...you can talk
about
197 00:10:13:14 00:10:14:18 your trip to South America.
198 00:10:14:20 00:10:16:28 **MS. KUCHLER:** Yeah, I was able to
participate...I
199 00:10:17:00 00:10:20:14 work also very closely with our counterparts
at
200 00:10:20:16 00:10:22:12 the Office of Overseas Schools.
201 00:10:22:14 00:10:26:00 And I participated with my counterpart for WHA,
202 00:10:26:02 00:10:29:01 Dr. Bill Scotti, of the Tri-Association
Conference
203 00:10:29:03 00:10:30:01 of Educators.
204 00:10:30:03 00:10:35:22 And it was a good opportunity, not only to
205 00:10:35:24 00:10:38:09 go out there and visit schools and families at
206 00:10:38:11 00:10:41:27 post, with children with special needs,
but also
207 00:10:41:29 00:10:45:27 learning about what special needs programs
are
208 00:10:45:29 00:10:50:09 being now put in place, developed to support
the
209 00:10:50:11 00:10:54:26 kids in the region, which was a big eye-
opener to
210 00:10:54:28 00:10:55:26 me.
211 00:10:55:28 00:10:59:06 Specifically, you know, for San Jose in the
last
212 00:10:59:08 00:11:03:26 year, I've seen how the special needs support
has
213 00:11:03:28 00:11:04:26 boomed.
214 00:11:04:28 00:11:08:01 And when we say support, you're going to
hear this
215 00:11:08:03 00:11:09:01 often.
216 00:11:09:03 00:11:11:13 There are a lot of places where there are
resources,
217 00:11:11:15 00:11:16:01 but your families need bilingual resources, so
218 00:11:16:03 00:11:18:28 oftentimes that does not translate because
there
219 00:11:19:00 00:11:22:13 might not be bilingual qualified providers
that
220 00:11:22:15 00:11:24:06 can provide resources.
221 00:11:24:08 00:11:27:09 There are providers, there are resources,
but not
222 00:11:27:11 00:11:28:23 ones you can access.
223 00:11:28:25 00:11:32:08 So that's why when we get information about

new
224 00:11:32:10 00:11:35:08 people in town that can provide services,
225 00:11:35:10 00:11:39:09 it's always a win-win because it will allow us
to help
226 00:11:39:11 00:11:42:15 more families, you know, get to those
assignments.
227 00:11:42:17 00:11:46:13 And just to add on what Jim was saying, we have
up
228 00:11:46:15 00:11:49:03 the special needs education allowance,
229 00:11:49:05 00:11:53:06 sort of like short, five-step list of what you
can do if
230 00:11:53:08 00:11:55:27 you are at an overseas post and this is the
first
231 00:11:55:29 00:11:59:12 time your child is identified with special
needs.
232 00:11:59:14 00:12:01:14 This is what this is designed for.
233 00:12:01:16 00:12:04:23 I'm hearing that a lot of you here have
been in the
234 00:12:04:25 00:12:07:19 United States for a while and you have
already
235 00:12:07:21 00:12:09:00 identified your child.
236 00:12:09:02 00:12:11:18 And your process is going to be slightly
different
237 00:12:11:20 00:12:14:16 from the beginning because it will really
start with
238 00:12:14:18 00:12:16:04 the clearance process.
239 00:12:16:06 00:12:18:16 And we're also part of that, and we have
another
240 00:12:18:18 00:12:21:14 slide where we are going to address that
and the
241 00:12:21:16 00:12:22:14 bidding process.
242 00:12:22:16 00:12:24:24 I know you guys have a lot of questions
about that.
243 00:12:24:26 00:12:27:06 **DR. BRUSH:** Well, the special needs allowance
is
244 00:12:27:08 00:12:29:23 intended to fill in for what you might get in
the
245 00:12:29:25 00:12:32:15 United States in terms of support for your
special
246 00:12:32:17 00:12:33:18 needs children.
247 00:12:33:20 00:12:36:20 Sometimes it's a matter of us cobbling together
services.
248 00:12:36:22 00:12:38:20 So, for example, there might be speech
services,
249 00:12:38:22 00:12:40:25 but they're not in the school, as they might
be
250 00:12:40:27 00:12:42:02 in the United States.
251 00:12:42:04 00:12:44:10 Occupational therapy services: they might
not
252 00:12:44:12 00:12:45:10 be in the school.
253 00:12:45:12 00:12:48:26 You might have to access them in the
community or online.
254 00:12:48:28 00:12:52:17 We have a representative here that you can
meet
255 00:12:52:19 00:12:56:14 later, Erin, who's in the back, who
represents an
256 00:12:56:16 00:12:58:24 online speech therapy company.

257 00:12:58:26 00:13:00:26 And there's been lots of research.
258 00:13:00:28 00:13:03:00 In fact, many rural school districts in the
United
259 00:13:03:02 00:13:06:05 States are now tapping into the idea of using
260 00:13:06:07 00:13:07:13 online speech therapy.
261 00:13:07:15 00:13:09:20 Research is showing that it's quite
effective.
262 00:13:09:22 00:13:11:20 So all of the sudden, there's speech therapy
available
263 00:13:11:22 00:13:13:21 in parts of the world that was never been
available before,
264 00:13:13:23 00:13:16:04 as long as there's a good internet connection.
265 00:13:17:27 00:13:21:29 At any rate, we're cobbling these services
together.
266 00:13:22:01 00:13:25:03 The schools that offer special needs education
267 00:13:25:05 00:13:32:03 often will add a charge or a fee to provide for
those services.
268 00:13:32:05 00:13:36:08 Some bill you by the hour for how much
their staff
269 00:13:36:10 00:13:37:08 is utilized.
270 00:13:37:10 00:13:40:21 Some will rate your child's needs, you
know,
271 00:13:40:23 00:13:43:17 mild needs, moderate needs, severe needs, or
272 00:13:43:19 00:13:44:28 intensive needs.
273 00:13:45:00 00:13:47:15 So they might bill based on that.
274 00:13:47:17 00:13:49:15 But that's what the special needs allowance
is
275 00:13:49:17 00:13:51:15 for, is to pay for those services.
276 00:13:51:17 00:13:55:11 It also pays for psychological counseling.
277 00:13:55:13 00:13:58:01 Again, it's something that can be done
online.
278 00:13:58:03 00:14:02:07 It's something that often is available at
many posts.
279 00:14:02:09 00:14:05:14 There is a provider somewhere that has been
280 00:14:05:16 00:14:08:14 Western-trained and knows how to talk to
children.
281 00:14:08:16 00:14:12:12 That's really intended to substitute for
what in the
282 00:14:12:14 00:14:14:19 United States is the availability of a
school
283 00:14:14:21 00:14:16:12 psychologist.
284 00:14:16:14 00:14:18:12 School psychologists, in the old
days...fortunately
285 00:14:18:14 00:14:23:11 we get to use the way it's done in the old
days.
286 00:14:23:13 00:14:25:11 In the old days, a school psychologist
would be
287 00:14:25:13 00:14:28:13 available to a child based on any number of
needs,
288 00:14:28:15 00:14:31:09 but mostly for adjustment needs, adjustment
to
289 00:14:31:11 00:14:33:25 school, not just testing and figuring out
whether
290 00:14:33:27 00:14:35:12 or not a child needs an IEP.
291 00:14:35:14 00:14:38:28 So the nice thing is that if your child has
some
292 00:14:39:00 00:14:41:10 adjustment problems, whether or not it's

293 00:14:41:12 00:14:43:29 because of the special needs, but mostly
because
294 00:14:44:01 00:14:46:29 special needs and adjustment problems go
295 00:14:47:01 00:14:50:10 together for many kids, psychological
counseling
296 00:14:50:12 00:14:52:14 can be paid for by the SNEA.
297 00:14:52:16 00:14:56:02 It has to be done by a non-physician because
298 00:14:56:04 00:14:58:02 otherwise that becomes medical care.
299 00:14:58:04 00:15:00:09 I know that sounds weird, but that's the
way the
300 00:15:00:11 00:15:01:09 world thinks.
301 00:15:01:11 00:15:04:27 **MS. KUCHLER:** Jim, I have one more thing to
add, and
302 00:15:04:29 00:15:08:20 if you are overseas and, you know, your
child
303 00:15:08:22 00:15:13:18 either has been newly identified or requires
304 00:15:13:20 00:15:18:23 re-evaluations, the SNEA can also
reimburse you for
305 00:15:18:25 00:15:22:15 the cost of, you know, transportation for one
306 00:15:22:17 00:15:25:22 parent and a child to come to the United
States where
307 00:15:25:24 00:15:28:25 we have preferred providers, to do the
308 00:15:28:27 00:15:31:02 evaluations or re-evaluations, as
309 00:15:31:04 00:15:34:25 recommended, you know, by the school or a
medical provider.
310 00:15:35:27 00:15:38:26 And we usually work very closely with the
health
311 00:15:38:28 00:15:42:28 unit or the RMOP, Regional Medical Officer
312 00:15:43:00 00:15:46:10 Psychiatrist, who is the person locally
that has
313 00:15:46:12 00:15:49:12 oversight for special needs children.
314 00:15:49:14 00:15:52:11 **DR. BRUSH:** Yeah, let me describe the process,
but
315 00:15:52:13 00:15:56:28 really, the takeaway is just visit your health
unit.
316 00:15:57:00 00:15:59:10 That's the easiest thing to do.
317 00:15:59:12 00:16:01:12 But I'll describe the process.
318 00:16:01:14 00:16:03:17 To qualify for a special needs education
allowance,
319 00:16:03:19 00:16:05:26 your child either needs already to have been
320 00:16:05:28 00:16:08:11 evaluated as a child who has special
educational needs,
321 00:16:08:13 00:16:12:05 and we need those reports, or if they have
322 00:16:12:07 00:16:14:16 an IEP, that's even better, because then we
323 00:16:14:18 00:16:18:15 have really, what is stipulated in the IEP
is
324 00:16:18:17 00:16:21:18 services that can be covered by the special
325 00:16:21:20 00:16:23:01 needs education allowance.
326 00:16:23:03 00:16:26:23 If your child is newly identified...and we
327 00:16:26:25 00:16:29:20 have...a lot of Foreign Service families are
out
328 00:16:29:22 00:16:31:20 in the world for years and years.
329 00:16:31:22 00:16:33:21 They have a child in Germany and then
they're
330 00:16:33:23 00:16:37:08 serving in Asia somewhere and their child
becomes
331 00:16:37:10 00:16:39:26 five years old, six years old, seven years

old, and
332 00:16:39:28 00:16:42:07 then there seems to be some kind of learning
333 00:16:42:09 00:16:43:07 disability.
334 00:16:43:09 00:16:46:17 And then they visit...the health unit or
the school
335 00:16:46:19 00:16:48:17 will write a letter...that's what we
336 00:16:48:19 00:16:49:17 need.
337 00:16:49:19 00:16:51:16 We need a letter from...or an email from
someone in
338 00:16:51:18 00:16:55:10 the health unit or the Regional Psychiatrist
or
339 00:16:55:12 00:16:59:19 the school, telling us that an evaluation is
warranted.
340 00:16:59:21 00:17:01:24 And then we'll write a SNEA for the purpose of
341 00:17:01:26 00:17:03:07 having the evaluation done.
342 00:17:04:13 00:17:07:15 So if you already come with evaluations,
that's great.
343 00:17:07:17 00:17:10:17 We can authorize a SNEA based on that.
344 00:17:10:19 00:17:12:21 If your child has been newly...
345 00:17:12:23 00:17:14:00 I'll get to you in just a minute.
346 00:17:14:02 00:17:15:09 Yeah?
347 00:17:15:11 00:17:16:25 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** What about if you've already
348 00:17:16:27 00:17:18:13 received it in the past?
349 00:17:18:15 00:17:20:03 **DR. BRUSH:** And if you've received it in
the past.
350 00:17:20:05 00:17:25:00 Well, the rule is that we need an updated
IEP every year.
351 00:17:25:02 00:17:28:15 So the school needs to come up...or some kind
of
352 00:17:28:17 00:17:31:01 services plan, some kind of updated plan
once a year.
353 00:17:31:03 00:17:32:24 And every third year, we need a re-
evaluation.
354 00:17:32:26 00:17:35:07 That's the law.
355 00:17:35:09 00:17:39:12 IDEA is that what we're basing our procedures
on.
356 00:17:39:14 00:17:42:05 IDEA is a federal law, the Individuals with
357 00:17:42:07 00:17:46:22 Disability Education Improvement Act, IDEA.
358 00:17:46:24 00:17:52:05 And that act dictates that children be
evaluated once
359 00:17:52:07 00:17:54:29 every three years and that there be an IEP
developed.
360 00:17:55:01 00:17:57:25 We don't always enforce the IEP but we want
some
361 00:17:57:27 00:18:00:13 kind of set of recommendations in the
362 00:18:00:15 00:18:02:21 psycho-educational evaluation, or we want
363 00:18:02:23 00:18:04:21 some set of recommendations that the
364 00:18:04:23 00:18:07:12 school will offer in some kind of services
plan.
365 00:18:07:14 00:18:09:16 And then we want that updated every year so
that
366 00:18:09:18 00:18:12:13 we see the progress and we see what's going to
be
367 00:18:12:15 00:18:13:13 needed for next year.
368 00:18:13:15 00:18:14:28 That way we can renew the SNEA.
369 00:18:15:22 00:18:17:20 Where can you get an evaluation done?
370 00:18:17:22 00:18:19:21 As Emili just said, you can travel.

371 00:18:19:23 00:18:22:29 We've identified providers in various parts
of the
372 00:18:23:01 00:18:24:15 world, but there aren't many.
373 00:18:24:17 00:18:28:21 I'd say there's less than on my two hands,
of
374 00:18:28:23 00:18:30:23 providers that we've actually identified
around
375 00:18:30:25 00:18:31:23 the world.
376 00:18:31:25 00:18:35:04 So most families choose to have the
evaluation done
377 00:18:35:06 00:18:37:04 when they've come to the United States for
some
378 00:18:37:06 00:18:39:22 other reason, although we will also pay for
you to
379 00:18:39:24 00:18:40:22 come.
380 00:18:40:24 00:18:45:04 If it seems like it's going to be necessary
to
381 00:18:45:06 00:18:49:15 have the evaluation done and you haven't
got a trip
382 00:18:49:17 00:18:52:15 planned to the United States anytime soon,
then
383 00:18:52:17 00:18:54:24 we will pay for the child...the SNEA will
pay
384 00:18:54:26 00:18:57:03 for the child and one parent to travel.
385 00:18:57:05 00:18:58:26 You'll get per diem.
386 00:18:58:28 00:19:01:22 Usually the amount of time required is about
a week,
387 00:19:01:24 00:19:03:22 maybe a week and a half, maybe a little
less,
388 00:19:03:24 00:19:06:02 depending on where you're coming from or
where
389 00:19:06:04 00:19:07:12 you're going to.
390 00:19:07:14 00:19:09:12 We can help you hook up with providers in the
391 00:19:09:14 00:19:11:28 Washington, DC area pretty easily, but
you're welcome
392 00:19:12:00 00:19:13:27 to go anywhere that there's an appropriate
393 00:19:13:29 00:19:16:29 provider that can provide a psycho-
educational
394 00:19:17:01 00:19:18:03 evaluation for you.
395 00:19:18:05 00:19:21:10 **MS. KUCHLER:** And the other thing I wanted to
396 00:19:21:12 00:19:24:09 add about the SNEA is like all of you have
on the
397 00:19:24:11 00:19:28:09 table...there is the handout that on the
front,
398 00:19:28:11 00:19:32:04 you have, you know, exactly what is on the
slide,
399 00:19:32:06 00:19:36:28 the steps on how to request the SNEA if you're
overseas.
400 00:19:37:00 00:19:40:24 But then on the back is the quick FAQ of how
does
401 00:19:40:26 00:19:42:27 this impact, you know, clearance, what do I
need,
402 00:19:42:29 00:19:48:11 sort of like a summary of what we have
talked about,
403 00:19:48:13 00:19:49:22 so you can take it with you.
404 00:19:49:24 00:19:54:11 Important to highlight a reference here,
section of

405 00:19:54:13 00:19:58:15 the DSSR 270, which is the education allowance
406 00:19:58:17 00:20:01:03 regulation for the Department of State.
407 00:20:01:05 00:20:04:26 The special needs component behind, you
408 00:20:04:28 00:20:10:02 know, the idea that applies to the Department
of State, DSSR.
409 00:20:10:04 00:20:15:09 Special needs section is 276.8, okay?
410 00:20:15:11 00:20:17:12 This actually is available...this
411 00:20:17:14 00:20:20:20 regulation is available online under the Office
of
412 00:20:20:22 00:20:24:06 Overseas Allowance website, but you have
here,
413 00:20:24:08 00:20:28:19 you know, the reference that you can take a
look at.
414 00:20:28:21 00:20:31:09 The whole section addresses, not in very
415 00:20:31:11 00:20:33:27 specific terms and we can spend all day
talking
416 00:20:33:29 00:20:37:13 about the DSSR, but in a very general way,
what the
417 00:20:37:15 00:20:41:11 special needs allowance will cover, what it
will
418 00:20:41:13 00:20:44:06 not cover, and what can be exceptions.
419 00:20:44:08 00:20:46:06 So it's very important to review this.
420 00:20:46:08 00:20:50:05 **DR. BRUSH:** Right, and once there's an
evaluation
421 00:20:50:07 00:20:52:26 that's done and we have a set of
recommendations,
422 00:20:52:28 00:20:55:15 what can the SNEA actually pay for?
423 00:20:55:17 00:20:58:05 Well, everything in a recommendations section
of
424 00:20:58:07 00:21:01:12 a psychological evaluation is not something
that SNEA
425 00:21:01:14 00:21:03:14 will necessarily pay for.
426 00:21:03:16 00:21:04:14 I know.
427 00:21:04:16 00:21:05:14 I've been a psychologist.
428 00:21:05:16 00:21:07:14 I've put all sorts of recommendations at the
end
429 00:21:07:16 00:21:08:14 of the report.
430 00:21:08:16 00:21:10:14 And I've been to school meetings where the
school
431 00:21:10:16 00:21:12:14 will say, "Well, we can do that but we can't
do this
432 00:21:12:16 00:21:13:14 by our regulations."
433 00:21:13:16 00:21:14:14 Same thing for the SNEA.
434 00:21:14:16 00:21:20:14 We base what the SNEA can pay for upon what
a normal
435 00:21:23:02 00:21:24:29 local public school district in the United
436 00:21:25:01 00:21:25:29 States would pay for.
437 00:21:26:01 00:21:29:24 And because things don't always translate
perfectly
438 00:21:29:26 00:21:32:15 overseas, there's some leeway we have, which
is nice.
439 00:21:32:17 00:21:39:14 But there's certain things that
are...obviously
440 00:21:39:16 00:21:43:11 things that we can pay for, like tutoring, a
441 00:21:43:13 00:21:47:29 resource room, you know, that the child
can go to,
442 00:21:48:01 00:21:51:11 extended time with a monitor on tests, things

like that.

443 00:21:51:13 00:21:53:28 But certain other things...oftentimes,
444 00:21:54:00 00:21:56:13 occupational therapists will recommend swimming
or
445 00:21:56:15 00:21:57:22 horseback riding.
446 00:21:57:24 00:22:03:16 Well, Fairfax Public School is not going to pay
for that.
447 00:22:03:18 00:22:06:07 We...the SNEA can't pay for that either.
448 00:22:06:09 00:22:09:04 When it comes to summer school, many special
449 00:22:09:06 00:22:12:17 education students do get what we call an
extended
450 00:22:12:19 00:22:16:09 year, which means that, because they need to
move
451 00:22:16:11 00:22:18:21 through things at a different pace, they
might
452 00:22:18:23 00:22:21:21 have their school year extended into the
summer.
453 00:22:21:23 00:22:23:27 If a school believes that it's going to be
necessary
454 00:22:23:29 00:22:27:09 for your child to maintain their grade level
to go to
455 00:22:27:11 00:22:31:09 a summer school program, the SNEA can even
pay for that.
456 00:22:31:11 00:22:32:09 We need that documented.
457 00:22:32:23 00:22:37:27 We have schools that have
actually...schools that
458 00:22:37:29 00:22:40:26 have actual summer camp programs.
459 00:22:40:28 00:22:42:16 But they're not summer camp.
460 00:22:42:18 00:22:44:17 They're summer academic camps.
461 00:22:44:19 00:22:46:23 They're going to be doing schoolwork
through much of
462 00:22:46:25 00:22:49:26 the day and have fun activities probably
weaved
463 00:22:49:28 00:22:51:26 in through the day, but it's going to be a
464 00:22:51:28 00:22:54:13 primarily academic experience.
465 00:22:54:15 00:22:55:15 But it has to be academic.
466 00:22:55:17 00:22:56:20 It can't be just summer camp.
467 00:22:56:22 00:22:59:06 And it can't be just summer camp for the
468 00:22:59:08 00:23:00:27 purpose of social skills.
469 00:23:00:29 00:23:03:16 It has to be something that maintains the
child's
470 00:23:03:18 00:23:07:08 grade level academically.
471 00:23:07:10 00:23:09:03 Yes?
472 00:23:09:05 00:23:10:20 Oh.
473 00:23:11:23 00:23:13:24 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** So you mentioned that you have
to
474 00:23:13:26 00:23:15:28 have a psycho-educational evaluation in
order to
475 00:23:16:00 00:23:20:01 qualify for SNEA, but can it cover that
evaluation?
476 00:23:20:15 00:23:21:08 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes. It does. Yeah.
477 00:23:22:15 00:23:24:05 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** So if you haven't
qualified...
478 00:23:24:07 00:23:26:02 **DR. BRUSH:** Well, yeah.
479 00:23:26:04 00:23:28:09 If there's a suspicion...the idea is
480 00:23:28:11 00:23:30:00 that we're trying to replicate what a school
481 00:23:30:02 00:23:32:00 district would do, so you're not going to

incur
482 00:23:32:02 00:23:34:01 a cost for an evaluation because if you
were in the
483 00:23:34:03 00:23:35:12 United States, the school district would
484 00:23:35:14 00:23:36:12 offer that for you.
485 00:23:36:14 00:23:39:23 So we will write the SNEA for the purpose
of the
486 00:23:39:25 00:23:43:18 evaluation and then once that's done, the
SNEA will
487 00:23:43:20 00:23:45:22 pay for whatever is recommended that a
normal
488 00:23:45:24 00:23:48:16 public school district will pay for.
489 00:23:49:02 00:23:50:25 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** That's what we ran up against.
490 00:23:50:27 00:23:52:05 His insurance won't pay for the evaluation and
491 00:23:52:07 00:23:54:19 then we've actually pushed it off until
[inaudible].
492 00:23:54:21 00:23:56:03 **DR. BRUSH:** Oh, no, no.
493 00:23:56:05 00:23:58:05 Well, when you...we can't let the
SNEA...the SNEA
494 00:23:58:07 00:24:00:12 unfortunately can't be in place until both
parents
495 00:24:00:14 00:24:02:07 are overseas.
496 00:24:02:09 00:24:04:18 But the minute you're over there, then it
can pay for that.
497 00:24:04:20 00:24:07:27 And you're right.
498 00:24:07:29 00:24:10:15 Insurance will pay a fraction of what an
499 00:24:10:17 00:24:12:20 evaluation costs.
500 00:24:12:22 00:24:15:18 And we still...you're still required to file
for
501 00:24:15:20 00:24:18:17 insurance but you will get reimbursed
immediately,
502 00:24:18:19 00:24:20:17 especially if you've had to pay upfront.
503 00:24:20:19 00:24:23:23 You will get reimbursed immediately when you
turn
504 00:24:23:25 00:24:25:23 the invoice in to the post.
505 00:24:25:25 00:24:30:10 So you'll get your...you won't be...if you
put it
506 00:24:30:12 00:24:32:10 on a credit card, you should be able to pay
your
507 00:24:32:12 00:24:34:25 credit card off by the time it's due and you
508 00:24:34:27 00:24:37:26 won't incur any interest charges.
509 00:24:37:28 00:24:40:15 But then when the insurance finally rolls
510 00:24:40:17 00:24:45:17 in, whatever pittance it is, then you give
that
511 00:24:45:19 00:24:47:12 money back to the post.
512 00:24:47:14 00:24:49:13 The Financial Management Officer is the
person
513 00:24:49:15 00:24:51:21 you'll be dealing with in terms of actually
cutting
514 00:24:51:23 00:24:53:14 the checks for these things.
515 00:24:53:16 00:24:56:08 There are lots of up-front expenses that you
might
516 00:24:56:10 00:24:58:18 have to pay for on your credit card, but then
the
517 00:24:58:20 00:25:01:24 Financial Management Officer at post will
reimburse you.
518 00:25:03:14 00:25:05:01 **MS. KUCHLER:** Correct.

519 00:25:05:03 00:25:06:23 And that's the reason why we require like a school

520 00:25:06:25 00:25:08:19 letter or a provider, you know, referral.

521 00:25:08:21 00:25:10:21 That will be sort of like the supporting

522 00:25:10:23 00:25:13:01 documentation to justify the SNEA.

523 00:25:13:03 00:25:18:24 **DR. BRUSH:** Yeah, to get the ball rolling. Yeah.

524 00:25:18:26 00:25:22:03 Oh wait, there was a...you and then.

525 00:25:23:23 00:25:25:19 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Going back to the ESY please.

526 00:25:26:01 00:25:28:29 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes.

527 00:25:30:07 00:25:31:29 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** So obviously, every post is

528 00:25:32:01 00:25:35:16 operating differently, but [inaudible] IEP-related

529 00:25:35:18 00:25:39:12 ESY.

530 00:25:39:14 00:25:50:21 *(off microphone comments)* ...kind of maintaining the

531 00:25:50:23 00:25:55:07 rhythm of school throughout summer.

532 00:25:55:29 00:25:57:15 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes.

533 00:25:57:17 00:25:59:13 First of all, I wish that...first of all, most

534 00:25:59:15 00:26:01:19 IEPs are legal documents, and they're kind of

535 00:26:01:21 00:26:03:19 difficult to read and understand.

536 00:26:03:21 00:26:06:23 I like a plan that's a little more, like, in English.

537 00:26:06:25 00:26:10:16 But we don't get many real IEPs overseas because the

538 00:26:10:18 00:26:13:02 school districts...or the schools overseas don't

539 00:26:13:04 00:26:14:07 know how to write them.

540 00:26:14:09 00:26:16:07 And then that's probably fortunate, because if you

541 00:26:16:09 00:26:19:03 read one that's written by Falls Church or Fairfax,

542 00:26:19:05 00:26:21:11 it's a legal document and you're like going through

543 00:26:21:13 00:26:25:01 page after page trying to figure out what the heck it means.

544 00:26:25:03 00:26:27:28 So that's probably good.

545 00:26:28:00 00:26:32:15 It...right now, all that is needed for...well I

546 00:26:32:17 00:26:35:27 should say...what is needed is that the school

547 00:26:35:29 00:26:38:21 states in a letter that your child, in order to

548 00:26:38:23 00:26:41:14 maintain their grade level over the summer, so that

549 00:26:41:16 00:26:43:16 they'll be ready for the grade that they're

550 00:26:43:18 00:26:48:17 supposed to enter, they'll need a summer program.

551 00:26:48:19 00:26:52:04 In the United States, it would be written into the IEP.

552 00:26:52:06 00:26:56:14 You're right, but we can't expect the

553 00:26:56:16 00:26:57:16 schools overseas to do that.

554 00:26:57:18 00:26:58:21 They're all private schools.

555 00:26:58:23 00:27:01:10 They don't follow the rules that public schools

556 00:27:01:12 00:27:03:28 do in the United States, so the best we
can do is

557 00:27:04:00 00:27:08:02 ask them to write a letter that states that
the child

558 00:27:08:04 00:27:10:28 will be in danger of not being at grade
level by

559 00:27:11:00 00:27:14:14 the time school commences, and that will
justify the

560 00:27:14:16 00:27:15:14 extended year.

561 00:27:15:16 00:27:18:19 **MS. KUCHLER:** And Jim, just to add to that,
there

562 00:27:18:21 00:27:20:27 are some cases like where you were
mentioning the

563 00:27:20:29 00:27:23:13 IEP already states that.

564 00:27:23:15 00:27:26:03 And in those cases, you know, we will honor
that

565 00:27:26:05 00:27:28:13 because the IEP already is recommending...the
one

566 00:27:28:15 00:27:30:19 that you're bringing from the United
States, it's

567 00:27:30:21 00:27:32:10 already recommending.

568 00:27:32:12 00:27:35:06 But, of course, if you get a letter from the
school,

569 00:27:35:08 00:27:37:26 to continue to support that, that's also
helpful.

570 00:27:39:28 00:27:41:11 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes.

571 00:27:41:13 00:27:43:25 No, go ahead.

572 00:27:43:27 00:27:45:26 Go ahead.

573 00:27:47:19 00:28:00:03 *(off microphone audience comments)*

574 00:28:00:17 00:28:02:28 **DR. BRUSH:** Right, because the local public
school

575 00:28:03:00 00:28:04:13 will take responsibility.

576 00:28:04:15 00:28:06:00 Yes.

577 00:28:06:02 00:28:07:25 Yeah.

578 00:28:08:21 00:28:14:21 *(off microphone audience comments)*

579 00:28:15:20 00:28:17:21 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes.

580 00:28:17:23 00:28:19:23 Yes.

581 00:28:19:25 00:28:21:12 So that's what we call a safe haven.

582 00:28:21:14 00:28:25:15 So when the Foreign Service Officer is at
an

583 00:28:25:17 00:28:28:04 unaccompanied posting and you've decided to
safe

584 00:28:28:06 00:28:30:15 haven in a country overseas, then your
child

585 00:28:30:17 00:28:31:15 is eligible for the SNEA.

586 00:28:31:17 00:28:33:15 *(off microphone audience comments)*

587 00:28:40:25 00:28:43:12 **DR. BRUSH:** If you're allowed to safe haven
in

588 00:28:43:14 00:28:45:05 Frankfurt and you want to be eligible for the

589 00:28:45:07 00:28:52:18 special needs allowance, then you can be
in Frankfurt.

590 00:28:52:20 00:28:58:18 That's a Human Resources option.

591 00:28:58:20 00:29:01:08 It has to do with unaccompanied posts and

592 00:29:01:10 00:29:03:01 families and what seems to make the most
sense for

593 00:29:03:03 00:29:05:02 the family.

594 00:29:05:04 00:29:07:24 If you want to talk to us later, we can kind

of help...

595 00:29:07:26 00:29:09:11 or maybe some of the other parents even can
596 00:29:09:13 00:29:11:00 help you negotiate the U.S.
597 00:29:11:02 00:29:14:11 public school district system for getting
special
598 00:29:14:13 00:29:15:21 needs for your children.
599 00:29:15:23 00:29:18:23 That's what the SNEA is trying to substitute
for.
600 00:29:18:25 00:29:21:03 Most school districts in this area are very
601 00:29:21:05 00:29:23:18 well-resourced and are very responsive to the
602 00:29:23:20 00:29:27:06 special educational needs of children, so
you'll
603 00:29:27:08 00:29:29:21 find that you won't incur costs for all of
the
604 00:29:29:23 00:29:32:27 special educational services that your child
would need.
605 00:29:33:10 00:29:36:20 Fairfax, in fact, is like, you know, one of
the
606 00:29:36:22 00:29:40:11 models for the whole United States.
607 00:29:40:13 00:29:42:11 So, you know, it's what other schools in the
608 00:29:42:13 00:29:44:27 United States look to often as a model.
609 00:29:44:29 00:29:45:27 Yes.
610 00:29:47:16 00:29:50:17 *(off microphone audience comments)*
611 00:29:50:19 00:29:51:22 **DR. BRUSH:** Yes.
612 00:29:51:24 00:29:54:03 **MS. KUCHLER:** It is on the regulation, but
Jim is
613 00:29:54:05 00:29:56:00 going to write it down.
614 00:29:56:02 00:29:58:25 It's \$71,500 for the at-post rate, and that
615 00:29:58:27 00:30:02:28 means if the school is...the school...if
the
616 00:30:03:00 00:30:05:07 child is attending the school at post.
617 00:30:05:09 00:30:09:01 And \$89,000 for the away-from-post rate.
618 00:30:09:03 00:30:13:02 And depending on the child's needs, we can
add
619 00:30:13:04 00:30:16:24 up to 50 percent from that amount additional
to that,
620 00:30:16:26 00:30:21:17 but it's on the regulation.
621 00:30:21:19 00:30:25:06 **DR. BRUSH:** And this, in a strange
mathematic...in
622 00:30:25:08 00:30:28:02 the strange mathematics that has to do with
school
623 00:30:28:04 00:30:31:05 funding overseas, if your child has a
special needs
624 00:30:31:07 00:30:33:23 allowance, then the post no longer pays the
625 00:30:33:25 00:30:34:23 tuition.
626 00:30:34:25 00:30:36:25 The special needs education allowance pays
627 00:30:36:27 00:30:41:12 for the tuition, which causes some embassies
to
628 00:30:41:14 00:30:45:12 end up with a surplus because they were
629 00:30:45:14 00:30:48:09 expecting to pay for a certain number of kids,
630 00:30:48:11 00:30:51:02 but now the SNEA is paying for some of those
kids.
631 00:30:52:15 00:30:57:24 **MS. KUCHLER:** Excuse me. Erin, you had a
question earlier.
632 00:30:57:26 00:32:34:04 *(off microphone audience comments)*
633 00:32:34:06 00:32:38:14 **DR. BRUSH:** Well and just say that a lot of
people

634 00:32:38:16 00:32:40:20 have abused this.
635 00:32:40:22 00:32:42:25 You can see it's ripe for abuse.
636 00:32:42:27 00:32:45:11 And so they're right to be very careful
about what
637 00:32:45:13 00:32:46:11 they pay for.
638 00:32:46:13 00:32:51:07 However, if you feel that something is being
639 00:32:51:09 00:32:53:22 inappropriately interpreted, we are
640 00:32:53:24 00:32:55:28 supposed to...like an insurance company, we
are
641 00:32:56:00 00:32:58:10 supposed to decide that it's clinically
642 00:32:58:12 00:33:00:18 appropriate, or it's appropriate according
to
643 00:33:00:20 00:33:03:06 the special educational needs of the child.
644 00:33:03:08 00:33:05:07 And the Financial Management Officers are
645 00:33:05:09 00:33:08:04 supposed to ask us if something is clinically
appropriate.
646 00:33:08:06 00:33:10:08 If they make that decision on their own and
determine
647 00:33:10:10 00:33:13:03 that it's not for some reason, then you can
come
648 00:33:13:05 00:33:16:11 back to us or you can appeal it to the Office
of
649 00:33:16:13 00:33:19:26 Allowances for a ruling.
650 00:33:19:28 00:33:22:15 The Financial Management Officers aren't
supposed
651 00:33:22:17 00:33:25:16 to take...they're supposed to follow the
rules but
652 00:33:25:18 00:33:27:16 they're not supposed to really take the
653 00:33:27:18 00:33:28:16 interpretive role.
654 00:33:28:18 00:33:30:13 But many of them do.
655 00:33:31:26 00:34:40:10 *(off microphone audience comments)*
656 00:34:40:12 00:34:44:28 **MS. KUCHLER:** Correct.
657 00:34:49:14 00:34:51:20 Yeah, but that is true.
658 00:34:53:01 00:35:01:04 *(off microphone audience comments)*
659 00:35:01:24 00:35:04:07 **MS. KUCHLER:** But that is true.
660 00:35:04:09 00:35:06:00 It might not be...okay go ahead.
661 00:35:06:02 00:35:08:02 No, no, no, go ahead.
662 00:35:08:26 00:35:45:02 *(off microphone audience comments)*
663 00:35:45:04 00:35:46:19 **MS. KUCHLER:** Correct.
664 00:35:46:21 00:35:49:02 And that's a very good point to highlight
that,
665 00:35:49:04 00:35:51:25 you know, to be aware, that if you have not
666 00:35:51:27 00:35:54:07 inquired about it, that it may not be approved.
667 00:35:54:09 00:35:56:16 So it's better to check with whoever is your
point
668 00:35:56:18 00:35:57:20 of contact.
669 00:35:57:22 00:36:02:07 But we do get a lot of the FMOs questions
all the time.
670 00:36:02:09 00:36:05:00 So hopefully, you know, this family can, you
know,
671 00:36:05:02 00:36:07:07 come back and...
672 00:36:07:09 00:36:08:27 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** It did get reimbursed.
673 00:36:08:29 00:36:09:22 **MS. KUCHLER:** Oh, okay.
674 00:36:09:24 00:36:09:25 *(laughing)*
675 00:36:09:27 00:36:12:03 **DR. BRUSH:** One more question and then we'll
676 00:36:12:05 00:36:14:05 move on and then we'll be available this
afternoon

677 00:36:14:07 00:36:15:16 to answer more questions.
678 00:36:15:18 00:36:17:14 You had a question?
679 00:36:19:13 00:36:23:06 (off microphone audience comments)
680 00:36:23:08 00:36:25:17 **DR. BRUSH:** Absolutely, right.
681 00:36:25:19 00:36:27:28 But, for example, a psychologist doesn't
know
682 00:36:28:00 00:36:29:29 special education.
683 00:36:30:01 00:36:32:23 A psychologist knows psychology.
684 00:36:32:25 00:36:35:22 So a psychologist in a recommendation section
685 00:36:35:24 00:36:39:19 might suggest a computer, for example, so
that the
686 00:36:39:21 00:36:41:19 child can keep track of their homework
687 00:36:41:21 00:36:44:24 or...because they're dysgraphic, they should
688 00:36:44:26 00:36:47:20 type instead of do handwriting.
689 00:36:47:22 00:36:49:20 But that won't be paid for by Fairfax.
690 00:36:49:22 00:36:52:06 What Fairfax would do, they have a whole bunch
of
691 00:36:52:08 00:36:54:06 computers that they loan to kids.
692 00:36:54:08 00:36:55:06 And so that's an option.
693 00:36:55:08 00:36:57:06 You can talk with the school about maybe
having
694 00:36:57:08 00:36:58:05 a computer.
695 00:36:58:07 00:37:01:07 They can't charge the SNEA for that
computer, but
696 00:37:01:09 00:37:04:07 they could buy a computer and then fold
that into
697 00:37:04:09 00:37:06:09 the costs that they charge generally for
special
698 00:37:06:11 00:37:07:12 educational services.
699 00:37:07:14 00:37:10:09 I mean, there's ways that...the one thing
we're
700 00:37:10:11 00:37:14:27 trying to do with Office of Overseas
Schools is to
701 00:37:14:29 00:37:17:02 show schools that there's ways that they
can offer
702 00:37:17:04 00:37:19:24 services to kids so that you're not
totally on your
703 00:37:19:26 00:37:22:08 own for that.
704 00:37:22:10 00:37:26:29 And there's another thing, Cogmed or certain
other
705 00:37:27:01 00:37:29:11 kind of treatment programs for learning
disabilities.
706 00:37:29:13 00:37:31:27 First of all, the research hasn't been
terribly good
707 00:37:31:29 00:37:32:27 on any of those.
708 00:37:32:29 00:37:36:07 Second of all, they are treatments, just like
709 00:37:36:09 00:37:39:13 eyeglasses and hearing aids are treatments.
710 00:37:39:15 00:37:43:00 They're not special educational services,
711 00:37:43:02 00:37:44:28 so those will not be paid for.
712 00:37:45:00 00:37:46:05 But a psychologist might well say, "Well,
you
713 00:37:46:07 00:37:49:18 should try a Cogmed program," to help a
child
714 00:37:49:20 00:37:52:18 with attentional problems learn to be more
attentive.
715 00:37:52:20 00:37:57:09 Well, Fairfax isn't going to pay for that,
so the

716 00:37:57:11 00:37:59:28 SNEA will not either.
717 00:38:00:02 00:38:01:26 Okay, one...yeah.
718 00:38:03:27 00:38:06:22 *(off microphone audience comments)*
719 00:38:06:24 00:38:07:26 **DR. BRUSH:** Oh okay.
720 00:38:07:28 00:38:09:04 Yes.
721 00:38:09:06 00:38:11:26 Let me...I'm glad that you raised...let me quickly
722 00:38:11:28 00:38:13:00 say something about homeschool.
723 00:38:13:02 00:38:15:25 You are absolutely allowed to homeschool your child.
724 00:38:15:27 00:38:20:27 There are curricula that you can access on your own.
725 00:38:20:29 00:38:22:27 Of course, that means you have to be the teacher.
726 00:38:22:29 00:38:24:27 And that means potential control struggles with
727 00:38:24:29 00:38:25:27 your child.
728 00:38:25:29 00:38:27:27 You just might want to think about that.
729 00:38:27:29 00:38:30:27 The other thing that you can do, depending on the
730 00:38:30:29 00:38:33:04 state that you come from or that you identify with,
731 00:38:33:06 00:38:36:02 many states will have online schools that
732 00:38:36:04 00:38:39:02 actually have special educational programs.
733 00:38:39:04 00:38:44:21 So you can access your state's online school
734 00:38:44:23 00:38:49:03 option and their special educational program within
735 00:38:49:05 00:38:51:10 that so that you're not in the business of running
736 00:38:51:12 00:38:52:10 your own homeschool.
737 00:38:52:12 00:38:56:04 You can actually have a computerized educational
738 00:38:56:06 00:38:58:13 experience that's a little different from homeschool.
739 00:38:58:15 00:39:03:19 It's an actual school, has actual teachers, actual
740 00:39:03:21 00:39:05:29 sometimes group discussions and group
741 00:39:06:01 00:39:07:15 projects and things like that.
742 00:39:08:18 00:39:10:16 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Would that require the parents
743 00:39:10:18 00:39:12:11 to do their own IEPs or to get a professional evaluation?
744 00:39:12:13 00:39:16:19 **DR. BRUSH:** No, if your child is enrolled in an
745 00:39:16:21 00:39:19:03 online school from your home state, that state
746 00:39:19:05 00:39:22:15 takes the responsibility just like Fairfax.
747 00:39:22:17 00:39:25:28 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** No, I'm saying if you're homeschooling.
748 00:39:26:00 00:39:29:03 [inaudible] local therapist.
749 00:39:29:05 00:39:31:03 **DR. BRUSH:** Then you still would need a psychological
750 00:39:31:05 00:39:33:03 evaluation and some kind of educational plan.
751 00:39:33:05 00:39:37:17 And one of the groups that are...the International
752 00:39:37:19 00:39:40:00 Diagnostic Solutions is a group that will help
753 00:39:40:02 00:39:42:08 people make an educational plan.

754 00:39:42:10 00:39:44:08 They'll be at the resource fair later.
755 00:39:44:10 00:39:47:19 **MS. KUCHLER:** A special needs education allowance
756 00:39:47:21 00:39:50:24 can pay for, you know, the tutor, or...if you are not
757 00:39:50:26 00:39:52:29 the one providing the instruction.
758 00:39:53:01 00:39:55:23 **DR. BRUSH:** But not for the whole school day, not for a teacher.
759 00:39:55:25 00:39:59:09 And you can't bring a teacher with you.
760 00:39:59:11 00:40:00:15 (laughing)
761 00:40:00:17 00:40:02:22 We've had parents sometimes ask us to pay
762 00:40:02:24 00:40:04:28 for someone...they've found someone they really
763 00:40:05:00 00:40:06:28 like working with their child.
764 00:40:07:00 00:40:09:19 They've asked the SNEA to pay for that person's
765 00:40:09:21 00:40:11:27 transportation and housing expenses and their
766 00:40:11:29 00:40:14:00 employment, and...
767 00:40:14:02 00:40:16:05 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** An that's something I had
768 00:40:16:07 00:40:18:08 been told in the past too, but I understood not
769 00:40:18:10 00:40:20:13 transportation and that stuff, but salary.
770 00:40:20:15 00:40:22:17 **MS. KUCHLER:** You can pay for actual services.
771 00:40:22:19 00:40:24:16 **DR. BRUSH:** Hourly services.
772 00:40:24:18 00:40:25:26 **MS. KUCHLER:** Hourly services.
773 00:40:25:28 00:40:29:14 **DR. BRUSH:** But they have to be established as necessary.
774 00:40:29:16 00:40:31:15 And most special needs kids, even very, very
775 00:40:31:17 00:40:34:14 disabled kids in the U.S., will not need someone with
776 00:40:34:16 00:40:37:18 them throughout the day every minute.
777 00:40:37:20 00:40:40:23 There's a certain small percentage of kids that
778 00:40:40:25 00:40:43:01 might, but...
779 00:40:43:03 00:40:47:16 Yeah, so we have to quickly go into clearances.
780 00:40:47:18 00:40:49:08 Oh, yes. Okay.
781 00:40:49:10 00:40:53:17 So, unfortunately, everyone has to go through
782 00:40:53:19 00:40:54:18 the clearance process.
783 00:40:54:20 00:40:57:04 The medical clearance process for children
784 00:40:57:06 00:41:01:02 includes special needs education and, if there's
785 00:41:01:04 00:41:05:07 been any type of emotional or mental health treatment.
786 00:41:05:09 00:41:08:07 In the old days, those used to be separated clearances.
787 00:41:08:09 00:41:10:07 They're still kind of separated, but we end up
788 00:41:10:09 00:41:11:07 doing them both.
789 00:41:11:09 00:41:13:06 So we try to keep them with the same person,
790 00:41:13:08 00:41:15:06 so you're only hearing from one of us instead of
791 00:41:15:08 00:41:19:07 several of us, which can drive you crazy.
792 00:41:19:09 00:41:21:10 Probably the most important thing to keep in
793 00:41:21:12 00:41:23:29 mind is we're looking to match your

child's needs

794 00:41:24:01 00:41:27:21 with the services that are available at post.
795 00:41:27:23 00:41:32:10 There are ways to find out about services
available at post.
796 00:41:32:12 00:41:36:09 One is the yahoo...the Foreign Service parents
797 00:41:36:11 00:41:40:11 with special needs children yahoo group.
798 00:41:40:13 00:41:44:07 It probably is the best resource that you can
be a part of.
799 00:41:44:09 00:41:46:07 Parents are sharing information about what
800 00:41:46:09 00:41:49:01 services are best at what posts.
801 00:41:49:03 00:41:53:15 The other thing you can do is access the
Office of
802 00:41:53:17 00:41:56:25 Overseas Schools list of special educational
803 00:41:56:27 00:41:59:24 programs, but you still will need to contact
804 00:41:59:26 00:42:03:04 schools and get them to at least review your
child's
805 00:42:03:06 00:42:05:09 needs and state whether or not they would be
willing
806 00:42:05:11 00:42:08:25 to accept your child as a student, because
we have
807 00:42:08:27 00:42:10:17 schools that have quotas.
808 00:42:10:19 00:42:12:17 They'll say, "Well, we only...we have a
special
809 00:42:12:19 00:42:14:17 needs program, but we only take five kids."
810 00:42:14:19 00:42:18:00 **MS. KUCHLER:** There's one more tool for State
811 00:42:18:02 00:42:24:17 Department families is the MCI, Medical
Capabilities Index.
812 00:42:24:19 00:42:28:28 The MCI tool is under MED and it's sort of
like an
813 00:42:29:00 00:42:33:06 interactive type of application that you
can
814 00:42:33:08 00:42:36:17 go in there, you can select any medical, or
815 00:42:36:19 00:42:40:18 educational, developmental need that needs
to be
816 00:42:40:20 00:42:43:26 addressed for your child, and then you
select the
817 00:42:43:28 00:42:46:17 post that you're looking at bidding.
818 00:42:46:19 00:42:49:09 And you can list as many posts as you want
and then
819 00:42:49:11 00:42:52:11 it will give you sort of like a summary
print-out
820 00:42:52:13 00:42:56:25 of what posts absolutely meet, you know,
the
821 00:42:56:27 00:43:00:03 requirement, the criteria, you entered,
which ones
822 00:43:00:05 00:43:02:14 are like you'll need more information, and
then
823 00:43:02:16 00:43:04:06 which ones are not a good one.
824 00:43:05:02 00:43:07:26 It's not absolute, but it gives you some
sort of
825 00:43:07:28 00:43:11:05 direction as to, okay, these are good posts,
826 00:43:11:07 00:43:13:25 these I have to do more research on.
827 00:43:13:27 00:43:16:12 And then, you know, that will help you to
put
828 00:43:16:14 00:43:19:09 together a better list because you can kind of
829 00:43:19:11 00:43:22:04 like rule out several posts from the get-go.
830 00:43:22:06 00:43:25:03 But you're still going to work with one of

us, with

831 00:43:25:05 00:43:29:07 Office of Overseas Schools Regional
Education Officer.

832 00:43:29:09 00:43:31:28 And, you know, with that collaboration
hopefully

833 00:43:32:00 00:43:34:16 you'll find a post that will be good for your
834 00:43:34:18 00:43:38:13 career and also to support your children.
835 00:43:40:02 00:43:44:22 *(off microphone audience comment)*
836 00:43:44:24 00:43:47:18 **DR. BRUSH:** No, actually, if you're going
to homeschool,

837 00:43:47:20 00:43:50:01 you just tell us you're going to homeschool.
That's all.

838 00:43:50:03 00:43:52:23 We need that...you need to just email us and
say,

839 00:43:52:25 00:43:55:12 "We're homeschooling our child."
840 00:43:55:14 00:43:57:20 **MS. KUCHLER:** Correct, but if they have
[crosstalk]

841 00:43:57:22 00:43:59:22 special needs and need a specific
therapist, we'll

842 00:43:59:24 00:44:02:13 still need that, yeah.

843 00:44:02:15 00:44:04:09 **DR. BRUSH:** Well...

844 00:44:04:11 00:44:06:23 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** You're talking about the IEP
to

845 00:44:06:25 00:44:08:07 get approved for the SNEA.
846 00:44:08:09 00:44:11:09 I'm just talking about the approval for post.
847 00:44:11:11 00:44:13:06 **DR. BRUSH:** No, if you're homeschooling
your child,

848 00:44:13:08 00:44:15:18 and you have special educational services
849 00:44:15:20 00:44:17:10 wrapped into your homeschooling program,
850 00:44:17:12 00:44:19:28 then we're going to automatically approve
any

851 00:44:20:00 00:44:21:23 post you could go to because you're taking
the

852 00:44:21:25 00:44:23:21 school with you.

853 00:44:24:14 00:44:26:25 Well, it is an interesting loophole, I mean,
but

854 00:44:26:27 00:44:28:24 people could get in trouble doing that.
855 00:44:28:26 00:44:31:01 I mean, I...even in Cincinnati when I
worked

856 00:44:31:03 00:44:33:05 and people tried to homeschool their
children,

857 00:44:33:07 00:44:38:04 a lot gave up after a few months because
it's too painful.

858 00:44:38:06 00:44:39:18 Yeah?

859 00:44:40:16 00:44:41:22 *(off microphone audience question)*
860 00:44:41:24 00:44:43:14 **MS. KUCHLER:** Yes, you do if they're not
wrapped up

861 00:44:43:16 00:44:46:10 into the program, so if the school, homeschool,
862 00:44:46:12 00:44:48:22 online school you're using is not providing
the

863 00:44:48:24 00:44:52:29 services for your child and you need to find
local

864 00:44:53:01 00:44:55:10 therapists, we will need that information.
865 00:44:55:12 00:44:58:04 **DR. BRUSH:** Let me also say that there's a
866 00:44:58:06 00:45:01:04 strategy for bidding, but first of all,
it's not

867 00:45:01:06 00:45:04:02 appropriate for a Career Development

Officer to
868 00:45:04:04 00:45:07:07 tell you that you cannot take a handshake
or bid on
869 00:45:07:09 00:45:09:29 a post until your children are cleared.
870 00:45:10:01 00:45:12:14 That's really not legal because, I mean,
871 00:45:12:16 00:45:14:14 theoretically you could send your child to
872 00:45:14:16 00:45:16:14 boarding school, you could homeschool your
child, you
873 00:45:16:16 00:45:19:27 could leave your child with a relative, so
874 00:45:19:29 00:45:22:02 bidding is really supposed to be separate
from your
875 00:45:22:04 00:45:23:16 children's clearances.
876 00:45:23:18 00:45:25:16 A lot of Career Development Officers get
877 00:45:25:18 00:45:28:02 that mixed up and they won't let people bid or
878 00:45:28:04 00:45:30:12 take a handshake until their children are
879 00:45:30:14 00:45:33:23 cleared, which is probably inappropriate.
880 00:45:35:03 00:45:38:09 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** That segues perfectly into my
question.
881 00:45:38:11 00:45:41:01 I have an assignment and my kids probably
882 00:45:41:03 00:45:43:15 inappropriately have [inaudible] probably
883 00:45:43:17 00:45:45:24 change shortly.
884 00:45:45:26 00:45:48:14 I don't want my assignment to change.
885 00:45:48:16 00:45:51:00 So I guess, how does that factor in?
886 00:45:51:02 00:45:53:12 To be perfectly frank, I'm nervous to give
any of the
887 00:45:53:14 00:45:55:12 information to [inaudible].
888 00:45:55:14 00:45:57:17 I would...do you know what I mean?
889 00:45:57:19 00:45:59:14 **DR. BRUSH:** Why don't we talk about that later.
890 00:45:59:16 00:46:02:17 You can get to us later.
891 00:46:02:19 00:46:04:27 **STAFF MEMBER:** We're about out of time.
892 00:46:04:29 00:46:07:13 **MS. KUCHLER:** Okay, we're almost done.
893 00:46:07:15 00:46:09:22 Oh, just want to let you know we have a
handout we
894 00:46:09:24 00:46:12:04 provide to all the families that are
bidding
895 00:46:12:06 00:46:14:21 on the medical clearance process, just to
guide you
896 00:46:14:23 00:46:17:03 through what is helpful.
897 00:46:17:05 00:46:19:16 And, like I said, anytime if you have any
questions,
898 00:46:19:18 00:46:22:22 there's going to be one of us assigned to you,
899 00:46:22:24 00:46:27:24 so just, you know, call us, email us, and
we'll get
900 00:46:27:26 00:46:30:28 you all, you know, set up, at least get
started.
901 00:46:31:00 00:46:33:08 And, you know, we're going to do a lot of
902 00:46:33:10 00:46:35:08 consultation back and forth, depending on how
903 00:46:35:10 00:46:37:28 many posts you have listed, believe me.
904 00:46:38:00 00:46:41:10 We see a lot, 30 posts in this list and 20
in the other.
905 00:46:41:12 00:46:44:07 We get to know each other really well.
906 00:46:44:09 00:46:47:03 **DR. BRUSH:** Thank you very much. We enjoyed
talking to you.
907 00:46:47:05 00:46:49:28 (applause)
908 00:46:52:15 00:46:52:25 (music playing)
909 00:47:21:29 00:47:23:12 ###