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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC  
May 19, 2017**

The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Family Resource Center, also known as the Parent Resource Center or the PRC, is located in Room 134 of the Minnie Howard Campus of T.C. Williams High School, 3801 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22302. The Parent Resource Center is open every school day from 8:30-3:30. The PRC offers the following services at no cost to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in the City of Alexandria:

- A lending library with over 500 books and DVDs on a variety of disabilities and parenting issues;
- A list of service providers in the community, such as speech therapists, math tutors and respite care providers;
- Support groups for parents;
- A workshops series for parents on various disabilities and general parenting topics;
- Individual confidential consultations to help parents understand their child's special education services and to support them with the challenges of raising a child with a disability or learning difference.

The following is a summary of Parent Resource Center activity for the months of April and early May, 2017.

**I. PRC Contacts:**

- A.** For PRC data recording purposes, a "contact" is communication **initiated** by a parent, staff member or community member with the PRC, either by phone, email or in-person meeting.
- B.** As of October 2016, the Department of Education has changed some of the parameters regarding what constitutes a single contact with a PRC. This could potentially lessen the total number of contacts as compared with previous years.
  - a. For example, prior to October of this year, each contact on a separate day surrounding one particular issue was counted as a separate contact.

- b. Now, the DOE wants PRCs to count all contacts surrounding one specific issue as a single contact, regardless of whether the contact is limited to one interaction between the parent and the PRC or twenty.
- c. To date, 90 people have contacted the PRC in May.

**C. Comparison of PRC use for 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 School Years**

MONTH	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
August	6 (PRC opened 8/19)	15 (PRC opened 8/15) Includes data from summer	49 (PRC opened 8/21) Includes data from summer	54 (PRC opened 8/22) Includes data from summer
September	16	78	139	91
October	18	108	136	119
November	12	124	139	149
December	28	63	70	87
January	79	189	98	172
February	60	102	130	152
March	61	112	124	181
April	79	91	125	127
May	79	100	62	
June	46 (PRC closed for summer 6/23 with the end of the school year)	114 (PRC closed for summer 6/22 with the end of the school year )	69 (data is through 6/24 and the end of the school year)	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1141</b>	
<b>Percentage Change</b>		<b>+126.4%</b>	<b>+4.1%</b>	

- D. Contact breakdown for April: parents (60), ACPS staff (38), Community members (29).
- E. Top disability areas for April: ASD (10), ID (5), ADHD (2), ED (2) LD (2).
- F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in April: workshops (57), community resources (23), (IEP/504 (16), support groups (11), SEAC (8), strategies (7)

**II. Family Engagement Workshop Series and Other Workshops:**

**A. Family Engagement Workshops**

- a. ACPS staff members are welcomed and encouraged to attend workshops. Each workshop in the Family Engagement series has been built into PLMS, and staff can receive re-certification points for attending.
- b. *Making the Move to Independent Housing for People with Disabilities* was presented by Jeannie Cummins, Senior Integrated Community Options Specialist, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, on April 26. The workshop was filmed. Fifteen people attended

the workshop. All thirteen of the returned evaluations indicated that the workshop was informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that overall, the attendees were satisfied with the presentation. However, there was some feeling expressed verbally at the workshop that it was hard to digest all of the information presented. Specific comments from the written evaluations included: *“great topic-need it on a cycle-biannual? As population increases;”* *“tons of information-a little hard to digest all of it;”* *“it was informative, covering audience questions;”* *“if it was include disable[sic] children as well or have services for these families;”* *“excellent info. Thanks;”* *“very helpful, excellent information and great answers to questions.”*

- c. Eight people attended the May 8 daytime workshop, *Understanding the IEP Process*. The ages of the children whose parents attended the workshop ranged from infants to teens, a more set of disparate age groupings than is typical for this particular workshop. Six evaluations were returned, and each indicated that the attendees found the workshop informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that, overall, they were satisfied with the presentation. Specific comments included: *“very helpful information. Thank you;”* *“15 mo. old, so I’m far from this. But, I’m happy to start learning;”* *“good to hear from other parents and their experience. More should be done to divide up different workshops to the different needs. We had kids in middle school and infants. BIG difference to handle in one workshop;”* *“great to know that you are here as a resource. Would appreciate an “Emotional Disability” specific session. Nice to hear from other parents;”* *“great information for all parents. Only comment: break out advocacy sessions by age groups. Janet-very informative. Courtney Davis was very helpful to my son and family. She was our first touch point into ACPS.”*
- d. A total of 624 people registered for Family Engagement Series workshops and 354 people attended them during the 2016-2017 school year. There were a total of fourteen workshops in the series, including the November 29 workshop on the development of speech, language and social skills in young children, a collaborative effort between the ACPS Speech Department and the Parent Resource Center.

### **III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition**

- a. 4/25/17-attended Maury PTA meeting about SOLs and distributed information about PRC (CPD);
- b. 5/4/17-attended Career and Transition workgroup meeting (JGR,CPD);

- c. 5/9/17-meeting with SEAC Outreach Committee member and parents responsible for school based disability/autism awareness talks to discuss disability awareness projects in schools (JGR, CPD);
- d. 5/10/17-meeting with Transition team and Mark Friese, Special Needs Advisor, Merrill Lynch, re planning for possible future transition fair (JGR, CPD);
- e. 5/16/17 meeting with new principal at Mt. Vernon to discuss PRC supports for Mt. Vernon families of children with disabilities. (JGR)

**II. Support Groups**

- a. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services May 2-one parent attended. Two parents who regularly attend cancelled, due to illness.
- b. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities May 10-one person attended.
- c. The school-based monthly support group at Ramsay, May 17-three people attended.
- d. School-based monthly support group at Maury, scheduled for May 19, was cancelled.
- e. School-based monthly support group for Spanish-speaking parents of students with disabilities at George Mason, April 25. One parent attended.

**III. Library Use**

- a. To date, sixty-six books have been borrowed from the PRC library this school year.

**IV. Facebook and Twitter**

Parents are encouraged to “like” the PRC Facebook page found at *The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center*. The PRC now has 124 people “following” and 118 “likes” on Facebook and 49 Twitter followers (LearnwithThePRC).