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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
January 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 December, 2016 and early January, 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, eighty-five people have contacted the PRC in January.

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	
February	60	102	130	
March	61	112	124	
April	79	91	125	
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)	
TOTALS	484	1096	1141	
Percentage Change		+126.4%	+4.1%	

- D. Contact breakdown for December: parents (44), ACPS staff (26), community members (17).
- E. Top disability areas for December: ASD (17), ADHD (2), MD (2).
- F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in December: workshops (17), (IEP/504 (14), community resources (12), support groups (10), PRC resources (10).

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. *Understanding the IEP Process* was presented on December 5. Five parents, community members and ACPS staff members attended. Five evaluation forms were returned. Each indicated that the attendees found the workshop informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that, overall, the attendees were satisfied with the presentation. Specific

comments included: “*excelente*” (from a Spanish speaking parent); “*very practical information. I learned a lot;*” “*I enjoyed the workshop;*” and “*thank you for being so helpful and patient with our questions-looking forward to keeping in touch!*”

- c. *Transition: Services for Students with Disabilities on a Non-Traditional Path* was presented on January 11. Fourteen people attended, including five ACPS staff members. Eight evaluation forms were returned. Each indicated that attendees found the workshop informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that overall, they were satisfied with the presentation. Specific comments included: “*great information;*” “*more training is needed for ACPS SPED staff on all of these wonderful services and acronyms*”, and “*microphone.*” The workshop was held in the Rotunda at T.C., and there was an echo which may have made it difficult for some attendees to hear.
- d. The workshop, *Strategies for Emotional and Behavioral Challenges*, is scheduled for January 25.

B. Other workshops and trainings

- a. Dr. Davis presented *Understanding the IEP Process* to parents at Lyles Crouch on December 7. This workshop was open to all parents but was geared primarily to parents whose first language is Amharic.
- b. PRC staff conducted a discussion style training of the Parent Liaisons on December 14. The training involved answering the questions about special education that the parent liaisons most frequently hear from the parents with whom they work. There was also significant discussion around cultural concerns/stigma that many parents feel about having their child be identified as needing special education services.

II. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

- a. 12/6/16-presentation at Barrett PTA meeting about services of PRC (JGR)
- b. 12/8/16-participation in planning meeting for VPI information sessions and connection with Alive, Child and Family Network, and Creative Play School (JGR, CPD)
- c. 12/12/16-participation in PIE (Parent Infant Education) Open House to provide information about PRC services for families of children with disabilities (JGR)
- d. 12/12/16-presentation at Maury PTA meeting about services of PRC and offering supports at the school level. (CPD)
- e. 12/12/16-presentation about PRC services at presentation on transition from Early Childhood Special Education to Kindergarten. (JGR)

- f. 12/15/16-meeting with Chase Phillips about possible panel on transition issues for parents to take into consideration (SSI, SSDI, legal planning, role of family and financial planning) (JGR, CPD)
- g. 12/19/16-attendance/networking at launch of Virginia Able Now, including information session about Virginia Able Accounts. (JGR, CPD)
- h. 1/3/17-meeting with Patty Eitemiller, of PIE about supporting parents of infants and toddlers with disabilities (JGR)
- i. 1/18/17-meeting with Krishna Leyva re support groups at school level and FACE Center support (JGR, CPD)

III. Support Groups

- a. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services Jan. 10-two people attended.
- b. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities Jan. 11-four parents attended.
- c. In discussions with school administrators, parent liaisons and lead special ed teachers, PRC staff have raised the possibility of offering support groups at the school level. A few schools have indicated an interest, including: Ramsay, Maury, Patrick Henry, and George Mason (initially for ELL families). No start dates for the groups have been determined, and there are still logistical issues to resolve, such as available time and space.
- d. PRC staff and the FACE Center are looking at the possibility of offering second language support groups (Spanish, Amharic and Arabic), if there is sufficient interest.

IV. Library Use

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

V. Mail Chimp

- a. In the hopes that more parents can be reached than via the PRC listserv, PRC staff will be moving towards use of Mail Chimp to distribute information about upcoming events.

VI. Facebook and Twitter

The PRC is engaged in a “Friendraiser”. Parents are encouraged to “like” the PRC Facebook page found at *The Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center*. At this point, there have been 92 “likes”. In addition, the PRC is on Twitter at LearnwithThePRC.