

Janet Reese
ACPS Parent Support Specialist
Courtney Davis, Ph. D.
Coordinator, Parent Resource Center

Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
Nov. 10, 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 October and early November, 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. Comparison of PRC use for 2013-2014, 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 School Years

MONTH	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018
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	70 (PRC opened 8/4) includes data from summer
September	16	78	139	91	90
October	18	108	136	119	168
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	149	
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)	66 (data is through 6/22 and the end of the school year)	
TOTALS	484	1096	1141	1347	
Percentage Change		+126.4%	+4.1%	+18.1%	

D. Contact breakdown for October: parents (84), ACPS staff (60), community members (24).

E. Top disability areas for October: ASD (23), ADHD (7), ID (3), MD (3).

F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in October: workshops (65), Community resources (28), strategies (21), IEP (20), support groups (19), PRC resources (19).

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. Allison MacMahon, ACPS Instructional and Assistive Technology Specialist, presented *Assistive Technology Tool: What Parents Need to Know* on Oct. 23. Eight people attended the workshop. Five evaluations were returned, and each indicated that the attendees found the

workshop informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that overall, the attendee was satisfied with the presentation. Specific comments included:

"I learn some helpful tools easy to implement at home. Thank you;" "great training!" "audio to text-new technology developments. Thanks! Time works great during the day. Evenings are for helping with homework."

- c. Dr. Deserie Charles presented *Managing Challenging ED Behaviors* on Oct. 25. Fourteen people attended the workshop, three of whom required a Spanish interpreter. Nine evaluations were returned. Each of the evaluations 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:

"You seem very insightful. I wonder if you do consults with the school system on specific cases;" "I would have skipped going over the DSM items. Those with children with diagnosis are aware of them. Those without clinical issues didn't need to know;" "muy buen tema de suma importancia para poder ayudar en la conducta de nuestros hijos. Y como poder comportarnos como padre para poder ayudarlos a entender mutuamente con nuestros hijos." (roughly translates to 'very important topic of great importance to help with the conduct of our children and how to conduct ourselves as parents in order to mutually help our children.')

- d. *Preparing Students with Learning Differences for College*, originally scheduled for Nov. 8, has been rescheduled for April 25, due to a scheduling conflict with a PGC focus group.
- e. The workshop, *Finding Gold: Financial and Legal Planning for Special Needs Families: A Panel Discussion*, is scheduled for Nov. 15.
- f. *An Overview of Section 504 Plans* is scheduled for Nov. 20, and *Electronics and Social Media: A Guide for Parents*, will take place on Nov. 29.

III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

1. 10/23/17 meeting with representatives from Anthem about DMAS rollout of new program regarding health insurance for people with Medicaid waivers (JGR, CPD)

2. 10/25/17 meeting with administrator and lead special educator at Polk about PRC supports. (JGR)
3. 10/27/17 meeting with AAC team and AT specialist re supporting families of students using AAC devices. (JGR, CPD)
4. 11/1/17-presentation at MV teachers meeting about PRC resources (JGR)
5. 11/2/17-presentation at CK Parent Coffee about PRC resources (CPD)

IV. Support Groups

1. The November support group meeting for parents of young children receiving special education services is scheduled for Nov. 14.
2. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities-Nov. 8-two parents attended.
3. School based support group at Maury, Nov. 10-six attendees.
4. A survey prepared by PRC staff has been distributed to Mt. Vernon parents of students with disabilities to see if there is interest in re-starting a support group at the school. Administrators at Ramsay and Polk have agreed to conduct a similar survey, to determine interest in support groups at those schools.

V. Library

Thirteen books and DVDs have been borrowed from the PRC library so far this school year.

VI. 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 125 people “following” and 119 “likes” on Facebook and 49 Twitter followers (LearnwithThePRC).