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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC**  
**Sept. 14, 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 June, July, August and early September, 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**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
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	
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	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)	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>1347</b>	
<b>Percentage Change</b>		<b>+126.4%</b>	<b>+4.1%</b>	<b>+18.1%</b>	

- D.** Contact breakdown for June: parents (37), ACPS staff (16), Community members (13).
- E.** Top disability areas for June: ASD (9), ADHD (6), ED (4), LD (3), ID (1).
- F.** Top reasons for contacting PRC in June: community resources (20), IEP/504 (13), PRC resources (9), strategies (8) workshops (4).
- G.** Contact breakdown for summer (June 23-Aug. 31): parents (32), ACPS staff (21), Community members (17)
- H.** Top disability areas for summer (June 23-Aug. 31): ASD (7), Chromosomal syndromes (5), LD (3), ED (3)
- I.** Top reasons for contacting PRC during summer (June 23-Aug. 31): community resources and events (12), IEP (11), strategies (10), support groups (8)
- 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. The first workshop of the 2017-2018 Family Engagement Workshop Series, *Promoting Motivation, Determination and Executive Functioning in Your Child*, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Minnie Howard.
- c. Dates for the remaining workshops in the Family Engagement Series are as follows:
  1. Oct. 11 and Oct. 18-*Understanding Social Security Benefits for Adults with Disabilities, Parts I and II* (Tia Marsili, Arc of NOVA)
  2. Oct. 23 and April 16 (daytime)-*Assistive Technology Tools: What Parents Need to Know* (Allison MacMahon, ACPS Instructional and Assistive Technology Specialist)
  3. Oct. 25-*Managing Challenging ED Behaviors* (Deserie Charles, Ph.D.)
  4. Nov. 8-*Preparing Students with Learning Differences for College* (Sajjad Khan, Ph.D.)
  5. Nov. 15-*Finding Gold: Financial and Legal Planning for Special Needs Families: A Panel Discussion* (Mark Friese, Chase Phillips, and Kelly Thompson)
  6. Nov. 20 and Mar. 12 (daytime)--*An Overview of Section 504 Plans* (Jeffrey Carpenter, ACPS Executive Director, Student Services)
  7. Nov. 29-*Electronics and Social Media: A Guide for Parents* (Amy Fortney Parks, Ph.D.)
  8. Dec. 4 and May 7 (daytime)-*Understanding the IEP and Eligibility Process* (Janet Reese and Dr. Courtney Davis)
  9. Jan. 11-*The Development of Speech, Language and Social Skills in Young Children* (Kari Comer, M.S. CCC-SLP, GW University)
  10. Jan 24-*Coping Strategies for Anxious Teens* (Dr. Krystal Lewis, NIMH)
  11. Feb. 21-*The Gift of Limits: Setting Behavioral Expectations for Your Young Child* (Cathy Canfield, MSW., LCSW, LICSW)
  12. Mar. 7-*Raising Responsible Children* (Rebecca Resnik, Ph.D.)

13. April 11 and 18-*Making the Move to Independent Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities, Parts I and II* (Jeannie Cummins, Virginia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services)

14. May 2 and 9-*Guardianship and Less Restrictive Alternatives, Parts I and II* (Tia Marsili, The Arc of NOVA)

d. The workshop series includes both daytime and evening workshops.

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

- a. 6/9/17-meeting with Lead Special Educator, Tucker, re planning PRC supports for families of students with disabilities for the 2017-2018 school year (CPD)
- b. 6/13/17 meeting with new principal about supporting John Adams families of students with disabilities. (JGR)
- c. 6/13/17 meeting with Tricia Bassing, Chief of Child Behavioral Health and Youth Development, City of Alexandria, and Victoria Garcia and Nataly Quintanilla, Parent Partners, City of Alexandria Community Wraparound Team, re services of PRC and supporting parents of students with disabilities. (JGR)
- d. 6/16/17-meeting with Clinical Director from Engage Behavioral Health re community resource for ABA therapies, respite care, possible workshop presentations (JGR)
- e. 6/19/17 meeting at Ramsay re support group planning for upcoming school year. (JGR)
- f. 6/22/17 meeting with Director of School Culture re disability in ACPS schools. (JGR, CPD)
- g. 6/29/17 meeting with new principal, Maury, re PRC supports of Maury families of students with disabilities. (CPD)
- h. 8/23/17 meeting with Milena Montoya, Virginia Family Nutrition Program , re family engagement. (JGR, CPD).
- i. 8/25/17 presentation re PRC resources at Polk Pre-Open House for Spanish speaking families (JGR)
- j. 8/25/17-meeting with Nicole Wright-Guise re planning support group for parents of students with ED (CPD)
- k. 8/31/17 meeting at FACE Center re logistical planning for workshops and engaging FACE families.(JGR, CPD)
- l. 9/13/17 meeting with Barrett Lead Special Educator re PRC services and supporting families of students with disabilities (JGR)
- m. 9/13/17 manning PRC table at MH Back-to-School-Night (JGR)

#### **IV. Support Groups**

- n. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services, Sept. 12-three parents attended.
- o. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities-the last meeting of the 2016-2017 school year, scheduled for June 14, had no attendees. It coincided with the ACPS All –School lock-in. There were no attendees at the first scheduled meeting of the group for the current school year on September 13.
- p. The school-based monthly support group at Ramsay will resume meeting in October.
- q. School-based monthly support group at Maury, June 9-four parents attended.

#### **II. 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).