

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

**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
May 4, 2018**

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 month of April, 2018.

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 through 2017-2018 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	152
December	28	63	70	87	93
January	79	189	98	172	202
February	60	102	130	152	188
March	61	112	124	181	138
April	79	91	125	127	213
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 April: parents (91), ACPS staff (70), community members (52).

E. Top disability areas for April: ASD (13), ADHD (5) ID (3), LD (1).

F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in April: workshops (75), PRC resources (51), community resources (33), strategies (24), Support groups (22), IEP (17)

G. 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. All ACPS workshops are free, but registration is required, for planning purposes. Workshops may be cancelled for insufficient registration.
- c. Allison MacMahon, the ACPS Assistive Technology Specialist, *Assistive Technology Tools: What Parents Need to Know* on April 16. Three people attended, and two completed an evaluation. Both evaluations indicated that the workshop was informative, that it provided helpful strategies, and that overall, the attendees were satisfied with the presentation. Specific comments included: “very informative” and “great workshop.”

- d. *Preparing Students with Learning Disabilities for College* was scheduled for April 25. The speaker cancelled several days before the workshop.
- e. The two part workshop, *Guardianship and Less Restrictive Alternatives*, scheduled for May 2 and May 9, was cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.

II. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

- a. 4/10 meeting with Superintendent about PRC resources. (JGR, CPD)
- b. 4/12 meeting with Kimberly Ha, OAR, about ways to connect families of students with autism with resources. (CPD, JGR)
- c. 4/19 meeting with Heidi Haggerty Wagner, principal of the new Pre-K Center, about PRC resources (JGR, CPD)
- d. 4/20 meeting with Delaina McCormack, ACPS Communications Specialist re enhanced techniques for using social media and Mail Chimp to promote PRC events. (CPD)
- e. 4/24 participation in Mt. Vernon information session about SOLs for students with disabilities. (JGR)
- f. 4/30 conference call with SEAC Outreach Subcommittee and Chairs re Disability Awareness resources and activities. (JGR, CPD)

IV. Support Groups

- a. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services May 1-three parents attended.
- b. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities, April 11-no one attended.
- c. Ramsay school-based group, April 19, two parents attended.
- d. John Adams school based, April 23 (evening). One parent attended and used Amharic interpreter. No one attended the May 2 morning support group at John Adams.
- e. Maury Special Ed Parents Group meeting, May 4-six attendees.

V. Library

Twenty-eight 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 168 people following and 156 “likes” on Facebook and 69 Twitter followers (LearnwithThePRC).

VII. Mail Chimp

The PRC uses Mail Chimp as a means of distributing information about PRC and community events, usually on a weekly basis, at a minimum. There are now some 1300 subscribers to the list. People receiving PRC mailings through Mail Chimp have the option of unsubscribing, which accounts for fluctuations in the number of subscribers. This month, the Mail Chimp list was merged with the account sponsored by the ACPS School Division, because it was approaching the 2000 member limit. As a result, the Mail Chimp list will continue to send messages without interruption in the future.

VIII. PRC Webpage

The website has been updated with several books and resources for parents of students with disabilities and providers. In addition, the calendar reflects all PRC activities, including workshops and support group meetings.

IX. Regional Meeting

PRC staff attending a Region IV meeting of PRC staff on April 24 at the Fairfax Parent Resource Center. (JGR, CPD)