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Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
Jan. 5, 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 months of December, 2017 and early January, 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 | |
| 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 December: parents (30), ACPS staff (45), community members (18).
- E. Top disability areas for December: ASD (7), ID (4), ADHD (1), LD (1).
- F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in December: workshops (23), community resources (21), IEP (12), PRC resources (12), support groups (11), strategies (5).

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 Development of Speech, Language and Social Skills in Young Children* is scheduled for January 10 at 6:30 p.m. Other evening workshops scheduled for January include *Coping Strategies for Anxious Teens* on

January 24 and *Understanding Social Security Benefits for Adults with Disabilities, Part I*, on January 31.

- c. PRC staff is offering *Canvas for Parents and Guardians* as an additional daytime workshop on January 29. This workshop, not included in the original Family Engagement Workshop Series brochure, will offer tips and tools to successfully navigate Canvas, from logging in to keeping track of student assignments and grades.
- d. An additional evening workshop, *Understanding Discipline Policies for Students with Disabilities*, has been added to the Family Engagement Workshop Series. The workshop, to be presented by John F. Cafferky, Esq., will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 14 at Lyles Crouch.

III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

1. 1/3 meeting with Hammond Parent Liaison re supporting Hammond families of students with disabilities. (JGR)
2. 1/3 distribution of information about PRC resources and services to TC special educators (CPD)
3. 1/5 distribution of information about PRC resources and services to LC, CK, ST and PH special educators (CPD)

IV. Support Groups

1. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities, Dec. 13-one parent attended.
2. The school-based support group at Ramsay will start up on February 15.
3. John Adams administrators are supportive of a school based support group, and once surveys are returned from parents ironing out details about the group, it will be established.
4. A survey prepared by PRC staff has been distributed to parents of students with disabilities at Polk, to see if there is interest in a support group at there.
5. Based upon results of the survey distributed to parents at Mt. Vernon, a support group will not go forward there at this time, due to insufficient interest. Mt. Vernon parents will be surveyed again in the fall, to see if there is more interest, at that time.

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 145 people “following” and 119 “likes” on Facebook and 59 Twitter followers (LearnwithThePRC).

VII. Mail Chimp

The PRC now uses Mail Chimp as a means of distributing information about PRC and community events. There are now 1306 subscribers to the list.