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**Parent Resource Center Report to SEAC
June 9, 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 May and early June, 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, 26 people have contacted the PRC in June.

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	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)	
TOTALS	484	1096	1141	
Percentage Change		+126.4%	+4.1%	

- D. Contact breakdown for May: parents (71), ACPS staff (41), Community members (37).
- E. Top disability areas for May: ID (13), ASD (11), ADHD (5), Physical disabilities (4), LD (3), ED (2).
- F. Top reasons for contacting PRC in May: workshops (34), community resources (33), (IEP/504 (16), support groups (15), SEAC (9), strategies (9), PRC resources (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 Family Engagement Workshop Series for 2017-2018 will include the following workshops and presenters:

1. *Promoting Motivation, Determination and Executive Functioning in Your Child* (Rachna Varia, Ph.D.)
2. *Understanding Social Security Benefits for Adults with Disabilities, Parts I and II* (Tia Marsili, Arc of NOVA)
3. *Assistive Technology Tools: What Parents Need to Know* (Allison MacMahon, ACPS Instructional and Assistive Technology Specialist)
4. *Managing Challenging ED Behaviors* (Deserie Charles, Ph.D.)
5. *Preparing Students with Learning Differences for College* (Sajjad Khan, Ph.D.)
6. *Finding Gold: Financial and Legal Planning for Special Needs Families: A Panel Discussion* (Mark Friese, Chase Phillips, and Kelly Thompson)
7. *Electronics and Social Media: A Guide for Parents* (Amy Fortney Parks, Ph.D.)
8. *Understanding the IEP Process* (Janet Reese and Dr. Courtney Davis)
9. *An Overview of Section 504 Plans* (Jeffrey Carpenter, ACPS Executive Director, Student Services)
10. *The Development of Speech, Language and Social Skills in Young Children* (Kari Comer, M.S. CCC-SLP, GW University)
11. *Coping Strategies for Anxious Teens* (Dr. Krystal Lewis, NIMH)
12. *The Gift of Limits: Setting Behavioral Expectations for Your Young Child* (Cathy Canfield, MSW., LCSW, LICSW)
13. *Raising Responsible Children* (Rebecca Resnik, Ph.D.)
14. *Making the Move to Independent Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities, Parts I and II* (Jeannie Cummins, Virginia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services)
15. *Guardianship and Less Restrictive Alternatives, Parts I and II* (Tia Marsili, The Arc of NOVA)

c. The workshop series will include both daytime and evening workshops.

III. Raising Awareness of PRC/Community Outreach/Transition

- a. 5/24/17-meeting with Assistive Technology Specialist re technology tools to support students with disabilities and workshop (JGR, CPD)
- b. 5/31/17 meeting with Peter Kallin, Alexandria Soccer Association, re increasing participation in program for children with disabilities (TOP Soccer) (JGR)

- c. 5/31/17 meeting with FACE Center staff about FACE support of PRC workshop series (JGR, CPD)
- d. 6/8/17-telephone conference with SEAC member about establishing a parent group at Lyles Crouch, supporting LC parents of students with disabilities (CPD)
- e. 6/8/17-meeting with new principal at Cora Kelly about PRC supports for school (CPD)
- f. 6/9/17-meeting with Parent Liaison, Hammond, re supporting families of students with disabilities (JGR)

II. Support Groups

- a. Support group for parents of young children receiving special education services, June 6-one parent attended.
- b. Support group for parents of students with moderate to severe disabilities-the last meeting of the school year is scheduled for June 14.
- c. The school-based monthly support group at Ramsay-the last meeting for the school year was held in May.
- d. School-based monthly support group at Maury, June 9-four parents attended.
- e. School-based monthly support group for Spanish-speaking parents of students with disabilities at George Mason, May 30. No one attended.

III. Library Use

- a. Sixty-six books were borrowed from the PRC library this school year.

IV. 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).