

Program for Students with Exceptionalities (PSE) RESOURCES

THE ARC OF PENNSYLVANIA 301 Chestnut Street, Suite 403 Harrisburg, PA 17101 800-692-7258
www.thearcpa.org

The Arc of Pennsylvania has 33 local chapters and represents over 8,000 members. The state office coordinates strategic, grassroots advocacy efforts; provides policy analysis and trainings and implements the statewide Include Me and the ARC Discovery Employment Transitions (ADEPT) programs that serve children and adults. The Arc of Pennsylvania focuses on systems advocacy and governmental affairs, demonstrating leadership and guidance among all disability organizations in Pennsylvania. The local chapters of ARC provide a variety of critical services, including advocacy services, Early Intervention, residential and day supports, home-care assistance, and job training.

BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION'S CONSULTLINE, A PARENT HELPLINE 800-879-2301

ConsultLine personnel are available to parents and advocates of children with disabilities or children thought to be disabled to explain federal and state laws relating to special education; describe the options that are available to parents; inform the parents of procedural safeguards; identify other agencies and support services; and describe available remedies and how the parents can proceed.

DISABILITY RIGHTS PENNSYLVANIA 1414 North Cameron Street Suite C Harrisburg, PA 17103 800-692-7443 (Toll-Free Voice) 877-375-7139 (TDD) 717-236-8110 (Voice) 717-346-0293 (TDD) 717-236-0192 (Fax) www.disabilityrightspa.org

DRP helps people with disabilities in many areas such as abuse and neglect, access to community services, discrimination, ADA compliance issues, education, assistive technology, voting access, and access to Medical Assistance services. We help people with developmental disabilities, physical and sensory disabilities, brain injury, and people in mental health recovery.

The help can include information, referral to other organizations, advocacy and legal action. DRP also provides assistance on legal issues to attorneys and others and provides education and training on a variety of issues to consumers, families, advocates, and professionals.

HISPANOS UNIDOS PARA NIÑOS EXCEPCIONALES (PHILADELPHIA HUNE, INC.) 2215 North American Street Philadelphia, PA 19133 215-425-6203 215-425-6204 (Fax) huneinc@aol.com www.huneinc.org

HUNE is a not for profit organization that provides free bilingual English and Spanish training, technical assistance and individual assistance to families of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and to professionals who work with children. This assistance helps families to participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities. HUNE works to improve educational outcomes for children and youth with all disabilities (emotional, learning, mental, and physical) from 0-26 years of age.

MISSION EMPOWER 1611 Peach Street, Suite 120 Erie, PA 16501 814-825-0788
advocate@missionempower.org www.missionempower.org

Mission Empower, founded as Educational Advocacy for the Inclusion of Youth (EAIY) was formed to address the dire need to integrate youth with disabilities into their communities and society as a whole. Prior to the inception of Mission Empower, there were no other groups or agencies exclusively empowering, educating or advocating for families and youth with disabilities in Erie County. Advocates and parents of children with disabilities rallied around this common vision to create this organization. In December of 2007, EAIY was incorporated as a non-profit in Pennsylvania and received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in June of 2008. EAIY changed its name to Mission Empower in August of 2009.

Mission Empower strives to integrate the current generation of all youth with disabilities to be fully included, productive, participatory citizens of their community. through education, advocacy and empowerment. Mission Empower has developed a multi-pronged approach for promoting inclusion: educational advocacy, parent engagement, and community education programs.

OFFICE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION 6340 Flank Drive Harrisburg, PA 17112-2764

717-901-2145 (Phone) 800-222-3353 (Toll free in PA only) TTY Users: PA Relay 711 717-657-5983 (Fax)
www.odr-pa.org

The Office for Dispute Resolution administers the mediation and due process systems statewide, and provides training and services regarding alternative dispute resolution methods. If a parent has questions or concerns about special education, gifted education, Sections 504, or their rights as a parent of a child with exceptional needs, the Special Education Consultline may be able to help. Consultline is a toll-free information help line for parents and advocates of children with disabilities who have questions or concerns about the education of a school-aged child.

PARENT EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP CENTER (PEAL) 2325 E Carson St #100a, Pittsburgh, PA 15203 412-281-4404 866-950-1040 (Toll Free) 412-281-4409 (TTY) 412-281-4408 (Fax)

www.pealcenter.org

The PEAL Center is committed to serving families and professionals across Pennsylvania. PEAL works with families, youth and young adults with disabilities and special health care needs to help them understand their rights and advocate for themselves. Through their unwavering commitment to inclusion and guiding values, they empower families and individuals to be included in their home schools and access high quality, coordinated physical and behavioral health care. PEAL's services are provided at no charge to families as they are funded by private donations and federal, state, and private grants.

THE PENNSYLVANIA TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK (PaTTAN) Harrisburg 800-360-7282 King of Prussia 800-441-3215 Pittsburgh 800-446-5607 www.pattan.net

Working with the Bureau of Special Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), PaTTAN provides a full array of professional development and technical assistance targeted to improving student results. This professional development and technical assistance takes many forms in order to meet the varied needs of PaTTAN's constituents. Week-long summer institutes, ongoing professional development series, webinars, on-site assistance, and individual student or teacher supports are some of the means by which PaTTAN provides support to schools.

STATE TASK FORCE ON THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION 3190 William Pitt Way Pittsburgh, PA 15238 1-800-446-5607 ext. 6828

The State and Local Task Forces serve as advocates for school-age children with intellectual disabilities. Although they do not have any authority to issue directives or establish policy for the operating agencies or to become involved in the administration of programs for which these agencies are responsible, they can play an important role in communicating needs and problems to the appropriate sources. Inquiries and concerns of the Local Task Forces can be resolved through collaboration with the intermediate units, public school districts, and other local agencies and organizations. Also, the consumers on the local task forces are in a particularly advantageous position because they are often the first group to know or recognize problems and needs. Their observations can be translated into action for positive change. Local Task Force meetings are intended to provide an opportunity for parents, guardians and surrogates to come and share their issues and concerns openly. Every effort should be made to achieve a reasonable solution at the local level by seeking out all community resources. Solutions provided locally are generally more satisfying and timely.