

Project for PEACE Application (continued)

7. Please tell us how you heard about this project.

Application must be received by the PEAL Center office by Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Cut on dotted line and mail this completed application in a separate envelope to:

Melissa Allen
State Personnel Development Grant Coordinator
PEAL Center
1119 Penn Avenue, Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Persons requiring accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), please call Melissa Allen, 412-281-4404 x913 or 1-866-950-1040 x913 to discuss needed accommodations.

OR email your numbered responses to the application questions to:
mallen@pealcenter.org

OR fax the application to 412-281-4408

Selected Applicants will be notified by Friday, January 15, 2010

FREE PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE PEAL CENTER

Project for Parents Engaged in Advocating for Change in Education (PEACE)



1119 Penn Avenue
Suite 400
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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FREE PARENT LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE PEAL CENTER

Project for Parents Engaged in Advocating for Change in Education (PEACE)



A six-month project for emerging parent leaders living in Bradford, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Tioga, Snyder, Sullivan and Union Counties

BLaST Intermediate Unit 17 in Williamsport or
Satellite Video Location at Mansfield University

Co-sponsored by **Mansfield University Family Literacy Program**

Supported by funds from the State Personnel Development Grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education



The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with special health care needs and disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals.

Project for Parents Engaged in Advocating for Change in Education (PEACE)

The PEAL Center is actively recruiting parents who are interested in becoming informed collaborators in educational reform at the local and state level. The perspective of family members has played a historical role in creating change in educational programming for children with disabilities. The family voice is critical to insuring that educational reforms proposed at the administrative level are responsive to the needs of children with disabilities and their family's visions for the future. Parents need knowledge of research based information on current educational issues to empower them to become equal partners in discussions and groups addressing this reform agenda.

The goal of the Project for PEACE is to provide parents with the information that they need to be informed and active partners in the educational reform efforts proposed at the state and local levels. PEAL will give you the tools you need to be an active change advocate in your region.

Participants will:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about educational policy and roles of professionals
- Increase communication and advocacy skills
- Develop leadership skills
- Expand network of colleagues with similar focus
- Plan and collaborate on various PEACE projects

Topics to be covered: In response to the Pennsylvania initiative *Improving Student Results: A Focus on Highly Qualified School Personnel*, the following topics will be covered with a focus on how they impact student participation in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE):

- Changing school psychologists roles to support students with disabilities in general education
- Rethinking the role of paraeducators

- Preparing education leaders to design schools that welcome students with disabilities and plan for their success.
- Preparing high school special educators to use proven instructional strategies to improve student achievement
- Reforming special education teacher certification so teachers are more effective with the age group they teach
- Ensuring students who are deaf and hard of hearing have interpreters who can skillfully provide access to spoken instruction

Your commitment: Throughout the Project for PEACE you will be asked to focus efforts on one of the topics listed above. You must:

- Participate in all six evening (5:30 to 9 p.m.) training sessions at BLAST Intermediate Unit 17 in Williamsport, PA OR at the satellite video location at Mansfield University. A mileage stipend for travel to all sessions will be offered.

January 21 - February 18 - April 15 - May 13 - June 10 - July 15

- Attend the two-day PEAL Conference in Mars, PA on March 16 and 17, 2010. The cost of a shared hotel room & mileage reimbursement for travel to the PEAL Conference will be covered by the PEAL Center.
- Commit to promote change using your newly learned skills after the completion of the project.

Who should apply: Parents of children with disabilities who are interested in improving their leadership skills and knowledge and who are looking to make a difference in the current educational system by partnering with educators for systemic change in these state initiatives areas. Parents are invited to apply who live in Bradford, Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Tioga, Snyder, Sullivan or Union Counties. Applications of parents from other nearby counties will be considered if there is room.

Project for PEACE Application

1. Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home phone, including area code: _____

Work phone, including area code: _____

Email: _____

2. Please provide us with some more details about your child.

Your child's age _____

Please check the label(s) that the school district has assigned to your child:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADD/ADHD | <input type="checkbox"/> Gifted | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Learning Disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autism | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Retardation | <input type="checkbox"/> Speech Language Impairment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf-Blindness | <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspected/Undiagnosed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Hearing Impaired | <input type="checkbox"/> No IDEA Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Traumatic Brain Injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Developmental Delay (EC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Orthopedic Impairment (Physical) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Impairment (including Blindness) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Disturbance | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Health Impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

3. What skills and interests do you have that make you a good candidate for the Project for PEACE?

4. Please check one of the six focus areas and explain why you would like to make that your primary focus throughout the project.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Changing role of school psychologists | <input type="checkbox"/> High school teachers using effective instructional strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rethinking the role of paraeducators | <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers certification prepares teachers for the age group they teach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School leaders who welcome & plan for students with disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Skillful interpreters for deaf & hard of hearing students for access to spoken instruction |

5. One of the goals of this project is to provide training to parents to allow them to be active participants in educational reform groups. How do you plan to use your skills after the completion of the project?

6. The Project for PEACE requires full participation in the following activities:

- Two day PEAL Conference in Mars, PA; March 16 (9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.) & March 17 (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Hotel and mileage paid for by the PEAL Center.
- Six 3-hour evening training sessions Jan. through Jul. at the Williamsport Intermediate Unit in Lycoming County OR at the satellite video location in Mansfield.
- Continue to utilize the information and leadership skills to be the voice of parents in educational reform beyond the completion of the project.

Are you able to commit to ALL three required activities? Yes No

If no, please indicate why the selection committee should consider your application.
