



Prince William County

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Providing A World-Class Education®

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Parents Want to Know...

What is a Parent Resource Center?

Initiated in 1983 by the Virginia Department of Education in collaboration with the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) of Springfield, VA, Parent Resource Centers (PRCs) were established to provide support, training, and information to parents and teachers of children with special needs. Prince William County Public Schools' Parent Resource Center has been in operation since November 1992 and works to promote a positive relationship between parents and educators of children with special needs.

Who may use the services of the Parent Resource Center?

Parents and caregivers of children and youth with disabilities, as well as school staff and any other interested individuals are invited to call, visit, or e-mail the Parent Resource Center.

What services does the Parent Resource Center provide?

- Direct assistance to parents – The center staff is available to listen, give information, provide resources, and problem solve with parents.
- Training workshops for parent. Workshops are offered on the special education process, how parents and school personnel can be partners in the process, and on disability-related topics of special interest to parents.
- A free lending library – Parents and staff may visit the center and check out books, videos, DVDs, CDs, and audiotapes about disabilities and the issues surrounding the parenting and education of children with disabilities. A study carrel with computers and internet access is also available for use by visitors to the center.
- To access the Parent Resource Center website, go to <https://www.pwcs.edu/cms/one.aspx?pageID=755210>

Please Note: Parent Resource Centers are supported in part by local school districts. The staff works with parents to resolve concerns and problems. They may not serve as advocates in formal mediation or due process proceedings. They refer parents to local or state advocacy organizations as needed.

How can I reach the Center?

You can call the Parent Resource Center or email Mary Jo Howarth, Administrative Coordinator, howartmj@pwcs.edu or Rhonda Tabor, Parent Coordinator, taborrd@pwcs.edu. You may also visit the center, with or without an appointment, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Visits to the center outside of normal operating hours are by appointment only. Sign and foreign language interpreter services are available upon request.