



Improving the quality of life and individual outcomes for persons with disabilities of all ages.
~Wilbur Hawke, Director

August 7, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Principals and School Advisory Council Chair

FR: Wilbur Hawke, Director of South Florida Parent Center

RE: Establishing Site-Based Resource Parents

For over 20 years, I have had the honor of serving Collier County as a parent advocate for students with disabilities and their families. We have collaboratively worked to resolve issues throughout the years, and I believe you and your staff are the best in the state at providing services to students with disabilities. During the past five years, through a partnership with my organization and the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) parent advisory "Sharing the Commitment", we have provided every school with an ESE Parent Professional Library. Advisory members are dedicated to ensuring the utilization of these resources and providing support to parents of students with disabilities in your school.

The South Florida Parent Center shares the goal of the District's ESE parent advisory to improve the quality of life and the quality of individual outcomes for persons with disabilities of all ages. We are committed to increasing communication, commitment, and shared responsibilities between the school district and parents. Working in partnership with the ESE Department and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), we have facilitated training, provided technical assistance and disseminated information to parents regarding services for eligible students. Training and support has been coordinated by our Parent-Educator Exceptional Resources (PEER) parents: Jennifer Hunlock, Rosanne Hogle and Michele Silano. In addition the Intervention Support/ESE Specialists, have acted as site-based teacher resources for our PEER parents.

To ensure the utilization of the existing parent resources and to build the capacity in your school for expanding school-parent involvement, we are seeking your assistance in identifying and recruiting a volunteer parent(s) to establish a site-based resource parent (PEER) at your school. We propose that this parent be nominated through your School Advisory Council (SAC), and with this correspondence, we are requesting to schedule a brief 5-10 minute presentation for that purpose. We believe that parents and professionals working together provide the best resources for children, and that informed parents make the best choices for their families.

Thank you for your willingness to share our commitment.