

The Special Education ConsultLine



**Information for families and advocates
of children with special needs**

800-879-2301

TTY Users: PA Relay 711

Help For Parents

The special education system can be confusing, and at times overwhelming. When new situations or disagreements arise, it may be difficult to determine what your rights are and what options are available to you.

To help parents with information about special education, the ConsultLine was established as a toll-free service for parents and advocates of children with disabilities and children who are thought to have disabilities.

If you have questions or concerns about special education, gifted education, Section 504, or your rights as the parent of a child with exceptional needs, ConsultLine specialists may be able to assist you.

You can contact the ConsultLine by calling 800-879-2301 or 717-541-4960, ext. 3332, or you can request that the ConsultLine call you by filling out an online request form at www.odr-pa.org/contact-consultline.

The ConsultLine provides direct service in English and Spanish, and is able to serve callers in other languages with the help of an interpreting service.

The ConsultLine was established to serve parents and advocates of children with disabilities. Organizations and agencies that provide support to families of children with disabilities may also use the ConsultLine. School personnel who have questions should contact the Bureau of Special Education at 717-783-6913.

The ConsultLine is...

A direct link to a specialist who will:

- Listen to your concerns and discuss options about your child's needs
- Answer questions and explain information about related federal and state laws
- Discuss options for resolving disagreements about your child's program including:
 - The state complaint process
 - Procedural safeguards
 - Other possibilities for formal and informal dispute resolution

- Identify agencies and organizations that provide other types of support
- Provide resources to help you learn more about special education and your child’s right to a free and appropriate public education

ConsultLine specialists do not...

- Act as advocates
- Provide legal advice

Before you call about a school-related concern...

Consider trying some of these options:

- Contact your child’s teacher, counselor, and/or principal
- Discuss concerns with your school’s special education director

When you call the ConsultLine...

Please leave the following information. This will allow a ConsultLine specialist to contact you in a timely manner.

- Your name
- Home, business and/or cell phone number
- Good times during the next three business days (between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.) for a ConsultLine specialist to return your call
- A brief message about your concern or question

Resources for Parents

Technical Assistance and Dispute Resolution

Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)

800-360-7282 Harrisburg
800-441-3215 King of Prussia
800-446-5607 Pittsburgh

Website: www.pattan.net

PaTTAN serves as the training and technical assistance branch of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. PaTTAN consultants work collaboratively with intermediate units to provide services in the areas of professional development, technical assistance, and information dissemination to support school districts within Pennsylvania. The PaTTAN website includes a Parent Page for information, publications, and links to other agencies.

Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR)

Voice: 800-222-3353
TTY Users: PA Relay 711
Fax: 717-657-5983

Email: odr@odr-pa.org
Website: www.odr-pa.org

ODR coordinates and manages Pennsylvania's special education mediation and due process systems. ODR provides resources for parents and educational agencies to resolve educational disputes for children served by the early intervention system, students who are gifted (or thought to be gifted), and students with disabilities (or thought to have disabilities).

Community Parent Resource Centers

Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE)

(Hispanics United for Exceptional Children)

Voice: 215-425-6203
Fax: 215-425-6204

Email: huneinc@aol.com
Website: www.huneinc.org

HUNE empowers parents of children with exceptionalities to obtain a free and appropriate quality education for their children. They provide training programs on all aspects of special education and support, including transition services. HUNE serves, but is not limited to, Hispanic parents in the American Street Empowerment Zone of Philadelphia.

The Mentor Parent Program (MPP)

Voice: 814-226-4151

Toll Free (in PA): 888-447-1431

Fax: 814-226-4850

Email: info@mentorparent.org

Website: www.mentorparent.org

The Mentor Parent Program (MPP) provides support and services to parents of children with disabilities through a coalition of united efforts of parents, educators, service providers, and professionals to effectively meet the needs of children with disabilities in the rural Appalachian region of Pennsylvania. The purposes of the program are to: provide assistance and training; provide one-on-one mentoring; provide information and appropriate referrals; develop home-school partnerships; foster parent involvement with the early intervention and education systems; and develop community awareness of the needs of children with disabilities. MPP provides educational workshops for families, educators, service agencies, and other interested parties.

Mission Empower

Voice and Fax: 814-825-0788

Email: advocate@missionempower.org

Toll Free: 855-825-0788

Website: www.missionempower.org

Mission – Through education, advocacy, empowerment and parent engagement we seek full integration of youth with disabilities into all aspects of life in their community.

Vision – Mission Empower envisions a community where all youth with disabilities use their gifts and talents to follow their dreams while changing their community for the better.

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Parent Training and Information Centers

Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center

Voice: 412-281-4404

Toll Free: 866-950-1040

TTY: 412-281-4409

Fax: 412-281-4408

Email: info@pealcenter.org

Website: www.pealcenter.org

The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals. The PEAL Center provides workshops, training, and information about early intervention, special education, and inclusive education to the western and central regions of Pennsylvania. Parent advisors are available to assist the family with information about the special education process and problem-solving strategies.

Parent Education Network (PEN)

Voice & TTY: 717-600-0100

Toll Free (in PA) & TTY: 800-522-5827

Spanish (in PA): 800-441-5028

Fax: 717-600-8101

Email: pen@parentednet.org

Website: www.parentednet.org

PEN is a coalition of parents whose children represent a full range of disabilities and ages from birth to adulthood. PEN provides consultation, technical assistance, workshops, and literature about special education to the eastern region of Pennsylvania. PEN's services are free and available to parents and professionals.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Corbett, *Governor*

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Ronald J. Tomalis, *Secretary*

Carolyn C. Dumaresq, Ed.D., *Deputy Secretary,*
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Bureau of Special Education

John J. Tommasini, *Director*

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) does not discriminate in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices, based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, union membership, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, AIDS or HIV status, disability, or any other legally protected category. Announcement of this policy is in accordance with State law including the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and with Federal law, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you have any questions about this publication, or for additional copies, contact: ConsultLine, 6340 Flank Drive, Harrisburg, PA, 17112; 800-879-2301; TTY Users: PA Relay 711.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Complaints regarding discrimination in schools:

Human Relations Representative
Intake Division
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission:
www.phrc.state.pa.us
Harrisburg Regional Office: Voice (717) 787-9780, Text (717) 787-7279
Pittsburgh Regional Office: Voice (412) 565-5395, Text (412) 565-5711
Philadelphia Regional Office: Voice (215) 560-2496, Text (215) 560-3599

Complaints against a Pennsylvania Department of Education employee:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Equal Employment Opportunity Representative
Bureau of Human Resources
11th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 787-4417
Fax: (717) 783-9348
Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445

Information on accommodations within the Department of Education for persons with disabilities:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator
Bureau of Human Resources
11th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 787-4417
Fax: (717) 783-9348
Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445

General questions regarding educational law or issues:

Pennsylvania Department of Education
School Services Unit
Director
5th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333
Voice Telephone: (717) 787-4860
Fax: (717) 783-6802
Text Telephone TTY: (717) 783-8445



OFFICE FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

6340 Flank Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17112-2764

Call us . . .

(800) 222-3353

(717) 541-4960

TTY users: PA Relay 711

Visit us on the Web . . .

www.odr-pa.org



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION