

# Project for PEACE Application (continued)

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

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**Application must be received by the PEAL Center office by Thursday, February 19, 2009**

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

Melissa Allen  
Special Parent 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 or 1-866-950-1040 to discuss needed accommodations.

OR email your numbered responses to the application questions to:  
[mallen@pealcenter.org](mailto:mallen@pealcenter.org)

OR fax the application to 412-281-4408

**Selected Applicants will be notified by Friday, February 27, 2009**

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



1119 Penn Avenue  
Suite 400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

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FREE PROJECT SPONSORED BY THE PEAL CENTER

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



A 4-month project targeting emerging parent leaders residing in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren counties.

2009 PEACE Project is co-sponsored by:  
The Mentor Parent Program  
The Arc of Crawford County  
The Autism Outreach Center of Northwest PA  
Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania  
Pa Families, Inc.



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, to apply for the Project for Parents Engaged in Advocating for Change in Education (PEACE), who are highly motivated to have a voice in shaping educational reform at the local and state level. The Project for PEACE is a four month institute/program. Historically the perspective of family members has played a powerful role in creating change in educational programming for children with disabilities. Family voices are critical to insure that educational reforms proposed by government 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 be effective equal partners when these policy and practice issues are discussed.

**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 parent institute 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):

- History of the right to special education
- Organizing for change; IDEA and inclusion; communication and dispute Resolution
- Strengthening special education teacher requirements including proficiency for high school teachers in the subjects they teach
- Changing role of school psychologists
- Qualities of effective special education leaders
- Rethinking the role of paraeducators
- How can we ensure that deaf & hard of hearing students have educational interpreters who can skillfully provide access to all spoken instruction in class

**Your commitment:** Throughout Project for PEACE you will be asked to focus your reform efforts on one of the topics listed above. You must participate in four Saturday training sessions (10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) in Meadville, PA – March 7, April 4, May 30 and June 20 (a mileage stipend will be offered) and attend the two-day PEAL Conference in Mars, PA on March 17th & 18th (shared hotel room provided). You are committing to promote change using your newly learned skills after the completion of the project.

**Who should apply:** Applicants must be parents of children with disabilities living in Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango or Warren counties (other counties' applicants will be considered if there is room) looking to make a difference in the current educational system. Those interested in improving their skills/knowledge to establish partnerships with educators to create systemic change should apply.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need on-site child care to commit to the Saturday sessions? If yes, list age of child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

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"/> Strengthening special education teacher requirements      | <input type="checkbox"/> Rethinking the role of paraeducators        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing for Change; communication & dispute resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring qualified educational interpreters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Qualities of effective special education leaders          | <input type="checkbox"/> Changing role of school psychologists       |

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

**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 17th (9 am - 7:30 pm) & 18th (9 am - 4 pm) (Hotel, meals, & mileage paid for by the PEAL Center)
- Four all day training sessions held in Meadville, PA. March 7, April 4, May 30 and June 20.
- Continue to utilize the information and leadership skills to be the voice of parents in educational reform past 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.

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