



PTIC and PIRC: Partnerships for Success

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Overview

- Parent Centers structure and activities
- PIRC and Parent Centers History
- Entry points for partnership
- Examples from MN

Before the Special Education Law (IDEA) was passed

- Children and young adults with disabilities often did not receive appropriate education services
- Many were excluded entirely from public schools or the general curriculum
- Undiagnosed disabilities prevented children from succeeding in school
- Inadequate resources in schools forced families to seek education services outside the public school

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- The IDEA changed the world for American children and young adults with disabilities. **Parent Centers are an integral part of its success.**
- Children and young adults with disabilities receive a free, appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment
- Many students progress to postsecondary education, employment, independent living, and being part of the community
- Families can look to the future with hope

The Role of Parent Centers

- Parent Centers are charged with helping families and schools to understand the IDEA and how to use it to benefit children with all disabilities.
- Parents helping parents



Parent Centers Serve Families

- Parent Centers had 1.9 million contacts with parents and professionals through trainings, presentations, calls, letters, home visits, and e-mails.
- 341,400 parents and 215,785 professionals attended trainings and presentations offered by Parent Centers.
- 29% of people attending Parent Center trainings and presentations were families and professionals from culturally and racially diverse backgrounds.

The data on these pages is a summary of "Parents Centers Helping Families: Outcome Data 2007-2008", a publication of the Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers.

Parent Centers Serve Families

- Parent Centers helped families by attending 13,199 Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings, Facilitated IEP Meetings, Mediations, and Resolution Sessions.
- Parent Centers reached more than 3.5 million people through newsletters.
- Parent Center Web sites had more than 17 million visits.

Parent Center Outcomes

- 83% responded that because of individual assistance received from the Parent Center, their child has received more appropriate services.
- 93% reported the assistance they received provided information to make a decision about their child's education.
- 89% said information they received at a workshop enabled them to work with the school to address a critical need related to their child's education.
- 83% reported information and support received by phone from the Parent Center helped resolve a disagreement with the school.

Parent Center Outcomes

- 97% reported that information received at a workshop made them more knowledgeable about how to work with schools.
- 89% said they shared information they received at a Parent Center workshop with other families.
- 98% said information they received from the Parent Center workshop was very useful.



Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers

A Unified Technical Assistance System

National Parent Technical Assistance Center (PTAC)

PACER Center, Inc.
8161 Normandale Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
Toll-free: 888-248-0822
www.taalliance.org

REGION 4 PTAC—WI FACETS

IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO,
OH, PA, WI

REGION 1 PTAC—SPAN, NJ

CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY,
RI, VT

REGION 2 PTAC—ECAC, NC

DE, KY, MD, NC, SC, TN, VA,
DC, WV

REGION 6 PTAC—Matrix, CA

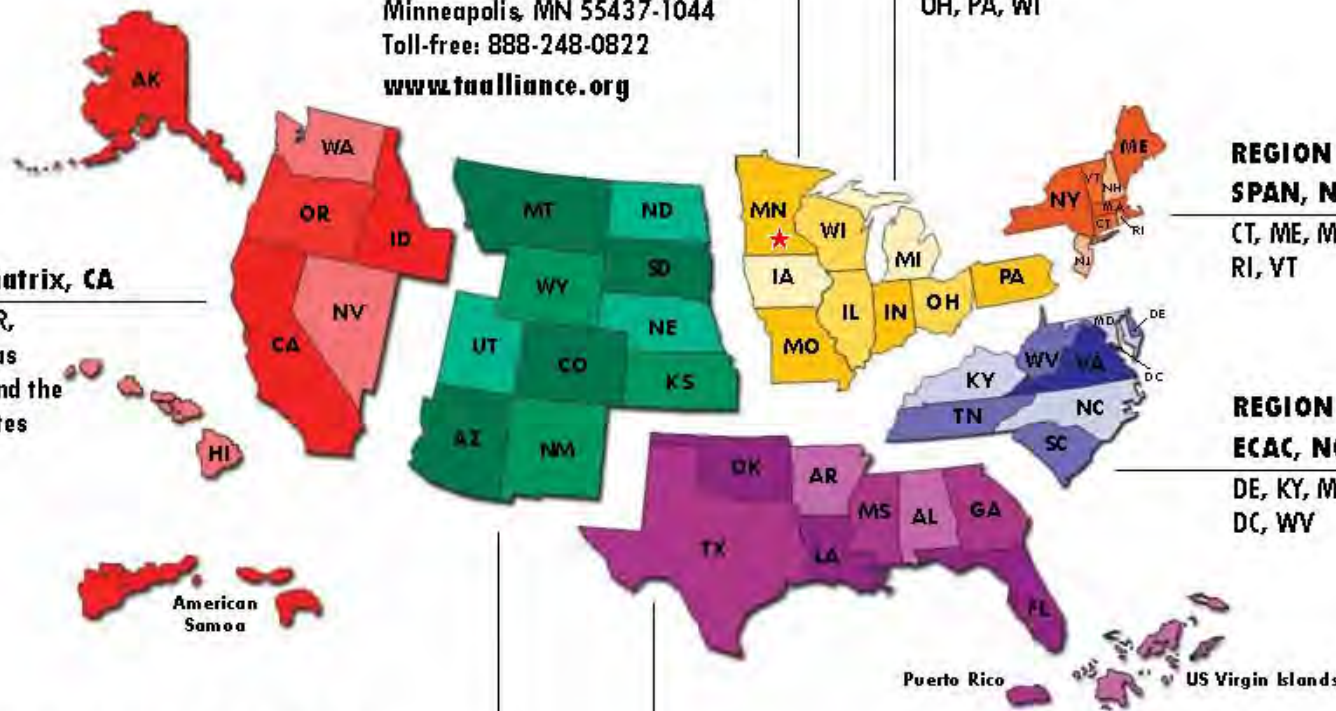
AK, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR,
WA, the outlying areas
of the Pacific Basin and the
Freely Associated States

REGION 5 PTAC—PEAK Parent Center, CO

AZ, CO, KS, MT, NE, ND, NM, SD, UT, WY

REGION 3 PTAC—Partners Resource Network, TX

AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, OK, Puerto Rico, TX, US Virgin Islands



Parent Centers' TA System

- By PTIs for PTIs
- Developed standards





Brief History

- IDEA becomes law in 1975
- 7 Parent Centers start in mid-70s: Illinois, Massachusetts, Indiana, Ohio, New Hampshire, Virginia, Minnesota

Brief History

- **1984 IDEA:** PTIs and Technical Assistance authorized and appropriated as line item
- **1997 IDEA:** Community Parent Resource Centers (CPRCs) receive funding
- **1995 ESEA:** Parent Information and Resource Centers (PIRCs) under Goals 2000



PIRCs Today

- Federally funded under Title V of No Child Left Behind.
- A national network of 62 statewide PIRCs across the United States and territories.
- Funded for five years (2006 through 2011).
- Work hand-in-hand with State and Federal Programs to provide information and resources on early childhood through high school parent involvement.

Which PIRCs are also PTIs?

- Alabama
- Delaware
- Florida (Clearwater)
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Minnesota
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Virgin Islands
- Virginia
- Wyoming



Activity

- How could your PIRC work with the Parent Center in your State?
- Discuss and share with the group



Entry Points to Collaboration

- Advisory boards
- Management and evaluation experience
- Systems change/policy
- Training
- PBIS, RTI, and other school-wide initiatives

Examples

- Information and referral
- Statewide RTI committee
- Training and outreach
- Spanish translation program
- Social networking



Collaboration Strategies

- Start with shared goals such as:
 - Reaching parents and schools, collecting outcome data, and parent involvement
- Consider developing materials together
- Maintain communication
- Promote each other's services



Contact Us:

MINNESOTA PARENT CENTER | MN PIRC

MN Parental Information and Resource Center, a project of PACER



8161 Normandale Blvd.

Minneapolis, MN 55437

952.838.9000 pacер.org

2009 National PIRC Project Directors' Conference

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PACER Center

Entry Points

What are possible activities in which your PIRC could collaborate with Parent Centers?

Current Practices:

New Ideas:

Invitation

How can you begin the conversation with Parent Centers?

Current Practices:

New Ideas:

Collaboration

How will you support and maintain your collaborative relationship with Parent Centers?

Current Practices:

New Ideas: