About PACER

PACER FACTS

- What is PACER Center?
- What is PACER's mission?
- Is PACER a 501(c)(3) organization?
- How is PACER connected to the community?
- How will my contribution help PACER Center?
- Interesting facts about PACER Center | 2011-2012

What is PACER Center?

PACER Center is a parent training and information center for families of children and youth with all disabilities from birth through 21 years old. Located in Minneapolis, it serves families across the nation, as well as those in Minnesota. Parents can find publications, workshops, and other resources to help make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their children with disabilities. PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center provides resources designed to benefit all students, including those with disabilities.

Highlights from PACER programs:

- PACER provides information, support, workshops, and referrals to both families and professionals.
- PACER provides puppet programs on disability awareness, abuse prevention, and bullying prevention.
- PACER's Simon Technology Center provides software, adaptive devices and training to help children and young adults with disabilities learn to communicate through technology.
- PACER provides programs for Native American, African American, Hispanic/Latino, Somali and Southeast Asian communities. Many of our publications have been translated into Hmong, Somali and Spanish.
• PACER's Family-to-Family Health Information Center provides a single source of information, including resources and support, for families whose children have disabilities and complex health care needs.

• Through the Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers, PACER offers consultation and technical assistance to the over 100 parent centers across the nation funded under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Its work affects the 7 million children with disabilities across the nation.

• Other programs focus on employment, grandparents, housing and bullying prevention.

What is PACER's mission?

The mission of PACER Center is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

Is PACER a 501(c)(3) organization?

Yes, PACER Center is a nonprofit organization serving children and youth with disabilities throughout the state of Minnesota and the nation. You can find a report on the organization at the Minnesota Charities Review Council. Gifts to PACER Center are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

How is PACER connected to the community?

PACER Center is unique in that it serves children with all disabilities; learning, physical, emotional, mental and health. No other organization in Minnesota offers this broad range of service to families. PACER also works in coalition with 18 disability organizations.

Many of PACER's board members are parent representatives from the coalition organizations.

PACER's vision is to build a healthy, integrated community in which people learn to respect each other for what they have in common, and to celebrate their differences.

How will my contribution help PACER Center?

Currently there are more than 200,000 children with special needs in Minnesota and 6.7 million throughout the nation. Each year, PACER receives more requests for services that help children with
all disabilities. Yet PACER is not a United Way agency, and does not charge workshop fees to parents of children with disabilities because PACER knows those parents are already facing high costs as they strive to meet the needs of their son or daughter with a disability. Your support will therefore help PACER staff respond to the ever-increasing number of families and professionals who contact PACER for assistance.

^ Back to top ^

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PACER CENTER | 2011-2012**

1978  PACER’s first office opened and beginning of PARENTS HELPING PARENTS.

200,000+ equals the number of children in Minnesota, age birth to 21, with disabilities and special health care needs.

121,706 equals the number of individuals receiving the *Pacesetter* newsletter.

30,516 equals the number of email addresses on PACER’s email list.

43,964 equals the number of requests for information and assistance.

4,684 equals the number of requests for information and assistance from the Simon Technology Center.

8,124 equals the number of students and adults who saw the COUNT ME IN puppet programs. This number includes both students and adults with and without disabilities. Students and adults who saw the KIDS AGAINST BULLYING show equaled 3,992.

583 equals the number of workshops, training, presentations, and in-services provided for parents and professionals.

33,260 equals the number of parents and professionals who attended PACER workshops, trainings, presentations, in-services, webinars, and conferences.

3,679,713 equals the number of visitors to all of PACER’s Web sites from the U.S. and 80 other countries.

32,000+ equals the number of “likes” on PACER’s Facebook pages.

16% equals management and fundraising expense as a percentage of revenue as stated by PACER’s auditors. This means that 84% of PACER’s funds go directly to its programs.

70  PACER now has 70 staff members.

MOST of PACER's staff and its Board are parents of children and youth with disabilities.

2011-2012 refers to PACER's fiscal year that was Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2012.

^ Back to top ^

Need Help? Call 952-838-9000 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST, M-F)

PACER is the Minnesota Parent Training and Information Center, funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs
How PACER Helps

How do I start?

Give PACER a call at 952.838.9000
Regular office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (CT)
Send an e-mail to PACER@PACER.org
Follow us on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter!

What can I expect?

By contacting PACER, you’re taking the first step toward finding more support for your family. The majority of PACER staff are parents of children with disabilities themselves who understand what you are experiencing and are ready to help you help your child.

How Can PACER Help Me?

PACER staff will help you find the resources or information you need. PACER helps a wide variety of families and professionals on local, state, and national levels every day. Most PACER services are provided free of charge to Minnesota families.

PACER HELPS Parents and Professionals

PACER HELPS IN MANY WAYS

Through more than 30 projects, PACER provides individual assistance, workshops, publications, and other resources to help families make decisions about education and other services for their child or young adult with disabilities.

PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center® provides resources designed to benefit all students, including those with disabilities.

PACER IS FOR:

• Families and their children or young adults with disabilities or special health care needs from birth through adulthood.
• Educators and other professionals who work with students with or without disabilities.
• Parents of all children and schools working together to encourage family involvement in education.

Learn more about PACER

"The programs you offer can give so much hope and inspiration to the people who need them."
—Minnesota parent

"Thanks for everyone’s efforts to help our son become successful and confident as an adult."
—Minnesota parent

PACER Stories - Families of children with disabilities share their stories.

http://www.pacer.org/about/howpacerhelps.asp
Programs

PACER Programs

PACER has programs for children and young adults with all disabilities, their parents and families, and the professionals working with the families.

Programs for Parents | Programs for Professionals | Programs for Children and Young Adults with Disabilities | National Centers | National Partnerships

- **American Indian Project**
  Individual assistance and information for American Indian parents of children who have or are at risk for developing emotional or behavioral disorders.

- **Bullying Prevention**
  PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center unites, engages, and educates communities nationwide to prevent bullying through creative, relevant, and interactive resources.
  www.PACERkidsagainstbullying.org | www.PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org

- **COUNT ME IN Puppet Show**
  Begun in 1979 as a program to foster understanding between children with and without disabilities, the Count Me In teams of volunteers present puppet shows for preschool and elementary aged children, teachers, and adults.

- **Dispute Resolution**
  Information, resources, and training opportunities to help parents resolve disagreements concerning special education with public schools.

- **Dropout Prevention**
  Information and training for families to reduce the risk of their youth dropping out.
• **Early Childhood Family Information and Resources Project**  
Services and support for families of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers with special needs.

• **Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (EBD) and Children’s Mental Health Services**  
Assistance on education, social services, and mental health or correctional issues for parents of youth with EBD.

• **EX.I.T.E. (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering)**  
A summer camp for middle school girls with disabilities to increase their interest in math, science, and technology. Additional workshops occur throughout the year. High school girls serve as mentors.

• **EX.I.T.E. Internship**  
High school girls can explore their opportunities in entering a career in science, technology, engineering, or math and to build upon their knowledge base and leadership skills to start them on their path.

• **Family Center on Technology and Disability (FCTD)**  
PACER is a partner on this national project that provides assistive technology information to parents, educators, and organizations serving children and youth with disabilities.

• **For Youth Only**  
FOR YOUTH ONLY is a resource for youth with disabilities. Here you will find information to help you to develop self-advocacy skills and gain a better understanding of how you can more effectively participate to increase your success in the classroom, at home, and in the community. Youth who understand their disability and its impact on their everyday life have a better chance of improving their life and the systems of care that serve them.

• **Fun Times**  
Social events and other activities for high school teens with and without disabilities to build relationships that benefit all participants.

• **Grandparent to Grandparent Program**  
Information and services for grandparents of children with disabilities.

• **Health Information Center, Family-to-Family**  
Information about the health care system, resources, and advocacy for families of children and youth with special health needs and disabilities.

• **Housing Project**  
Information and referral for parents of youth with disabilities to understand their independent living and housing options for the future.
• **ilivehere**
  Software that can simplify how you share youth resources.

• **International Activities**
  An international Web site for parents of children and youth with disabilities, conferences, exchanges, and other opportunities.

• **Juvenile Justice**
  Training to help individuals identify the needs of youths whose disabilities may place them at risk for involvement in the justice system.

• **KIDS AGAINST BULLYING Puppet Show**
  The KIDS AGAINST BULLYING Puppet Show helps children in grades 1-3 learn about bullying prevention. The presentation is interactive and includes opportunities for the students to share their ideas and ask questions.

• **Leadership Academy**
  An academic year program for students with disabilities in grades ninth through eleventh. Students, Parents, and educational staff participate in trainings on assistive technology software and technologies that can enhance academic and transition success.

• **Let’s Prevent Abuse, Puppet Show**
  Begun in 1984, the LPA program focuses on identifying abuse, sources for help, and preventing abuse of young children. The presentation, written for children in grades 1-4 along with their teachers, social workers, and other adults at schools, is no longer available to be performed, but puppets and scripts can be purchased as a PACER Puppet Package for your organization.

• **Minnesota Parent Center (MN PIRC)**
  Information and resources to help parents be strong partners in their children’s education in ways that lead to improvements in student achievement.

• **Multicultural Services**
  Bilingual workshops and publications focusing on issues facing families from diverse backgrounds.

• **National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth (NCWD/Youth)**
  NCWD/Youth is your source for information about employment and youth with disabilities. Our partners — experts in disability, education, employment, and workforce development — strive to ensure you will be provided with the highest quality, most relevant information available.

• **National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC)**
  Works with state and local systems to ensure that young children with disabilities (birth through 5 years) and their families receive high-quality, research-based, culturally appropriate, and
family-centered supports and services.

• **National Post-School Outcomes Center (NPSO)**  
  Provides technical assistance to develop state systems to collect and analyze post-school outcome data improving outcomes for youth with disabilities.

• **Opening Doors for Children and Youth with Disabilities and Special Health Care Needs**  
  PACER works with this national center for children and youth with disabilities based at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) in Massachusetts, a partnership between Children's Hospital Boston and University of Massachusetts Boston, to promote more effective interventions for underserved children with disabilities in three areas: the transition to adulthood; access to community recreational activities; and screening and early identification of young children with disabilities.

• **Parent Leadership in Special Education**  
  Parents can use their experience and expertise to influence change in local special education advisory committees, interagency collaborations and public policy.

• **Parents Helping Parents**  
  Workshops, one-on-one training, and information on special education, communication skills, and other issues affecting children with disabilities.

• **Project KITE (Kids Included through Technology are Enriched)**  
  Training for parents and early childhood educational staff to use software and technology that enable children with disabilities to interact with their peers.

• **Project PRIDE (PACER’s Rehabilitation Act Information & Disability Education)**  
  Information and training about the Rehabilitation Act for youth with disabilities, their families, and professionals.

• **Puppet Program**  
  PACER Center offers three puppet shows for schools. The COUNT ME IN show, for preschool to fourth grade, promotes inclusion of children with disabilities and highlights disability awareness. The KIDS AGAINST BULLYING show is for students in first through third grade and deals with issues related to bullying. The Let’s Prevent Abuse puppet show helps students in first through fourth grade learn about abuse. The PACER puppets and scripts are available for sale.

• **School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SW-PBIS)**  
  Information and training on a new state initiative to help schools successfully educate all students and especially those with challenging behaviors.

• **Simon Technology Center (STC)**  
  Helping make the benefits of assistive technology available to parents and professionals via

http://www.pacer.org/pandr/proglist.asp
workshops, webinars, trainings, services and projects. The STC includes a software and device lending library.

- **Statewide Assessment Project**  
  Information, resources, and training opportunities to help parents participate in Individualized Education Program (IEP) planning for your child’s involvement in statewide assessment.

- **Surrogate Parent Services**  
  Training and suggestions for selection of surrogate parents to represent children with disabilities in the special education process.

- **Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers National Center (ALLIANCE)**  
  PACER is the national technical assistance center for over 100 federally funded parent centers across the country under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

- **Technical Assistance on Transition and the Rehabilitation Act (TATRA)**  
  PACER serves as the national center to provide education assistance for parent centers that train individuals with disabilities and their families about the services and rights available under the Rehabilitation Act.

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