

## Agencies Supporting Parents and Families of Students with Special Needs:

1. **Consultline** (1-800-879-2301) is a toll free help line provided by the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) to assist parents of children with disabilities who have questions concerning their children's special education services. Consultline advisors answer questions about special education programs and the laws governing those programs for parents of and advocates for children with disabilities, or those who are thought to be disabled. For more information, go to [www.odr-pa.org](http://www.odr-pa.org) and click on Consultline.
2. The **Mentor Parent Program** is one of two Community Parent Resource Centers in Pennsylvania. The program was created by parents of children with special needs to support parents of children with disabilities in Pennsylvania. [www.mentorparent.org](http://www.mentorparent.org)
3. The **Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR)** coordinates and manages Pennsylvania's special education and mediation and due process systems. ODR provides help concerning procedural safeguards to parents, advocates, school districts, charter schools, intermediate units, and approved private schools. ODR provides the resources for parents and educational agencies to resolve disputes concerning the identification, evaluation, educational placement, or the provision of a free and appropriate public education for students with disabilities, students who are gifted, and children with disabilities served by the early intervention system. [www.odr-pa.org](http://www.odr-pa.org)
4. The **Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center** is one of two Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) in Pennsylvania funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals. PEAL provides workshops, training, and information about early intervention, special education, and inclusive education. Parent advisors are available to provide families with information about the special education process and problem-solving strategies. [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)
5. **The Parent Education Network (PEN)** is one of two Parent Training and Information Centers (PTIs) in Pennsylvania funded by the U.S. Department of Education. PEN is a coalition of parents of students representing a range of disabilities and ages. Its parent training projects promote mutual respect between parents and professionals for the knowledge, skills, and abilities each contributes to delivering education and other services to students and adults with disabilities. [www.parentednet.org](http://www.parentednet.org)
6. The **State and Local Task Forces** were developed as a result of the historic PARC Consent Agreement. Their primary purpose is to ensure the intent and spirit of the

Right to Education for students with disabilities is carried out throughout the commonwealth through recommendations, evaluation, advocacy, and monitoring.

[Tinyurl.com/statetaskforce](http://Tinyurl.com/statetaskforce)

7. The **Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)** is the training arm of the PDE through the Bureau of Special Education. The agency's main focus is building the capacity of educators and parents. PaTTAN employs four parent consultants across the state, and leadership believes it is important that parents of children with disabilities help frame the education that is given to students in the commonwealth. [www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net)
8. The **Pacer Center** is an organization based out of the state of Minnesota, which is funded by the United States Department of Education Office of Special Education to provide individualized assistance, workshops, publications and more to help families make decisions about education and other services for their child with disabilities. [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)