

Mission of Project

The Partnership for Educational Advocacy and Parity believes that empowering parents through education on the special education process will strengthen our community. By helping parents learn how to effectively advocate for their child, from assessment and evaluation to the implementation of an IEP or 504 Plan, children will benefit from an appropriate education.

It is our mission to provide parents with step-by-step guidance through all phases of the special education process. We will accomplish this by conducting trainings and creating the Special Education Resource Center. In the trainings, parents and lay advocates are provided with the basic knowledge to navigate through the process. In addition the Center will provide a place to have questions answered as well as access to computers to do research, fill out forms, and write letters. There will also be volunteers available to assist parents through these activities.



This project is made possible through grant funding by Strengthening Communities.



Resource Center
901-523-8822 Ext. 101
PEAP@malsi.org

Located at Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc.
22 North Front Street, 11th Floor
Memphis, TN 38103

Partners for Educational Advocacy and Parity (PEAP)



In collaboration with:

Memphis Area Legal
Services, University of
Memphis Department of
Social Work, and the UT
Bolton Center for
Developmental Disabilities

Who We Are

We are a diverse group of people that feel passionately about the need for parents to know and understand their and their children's rights in the special education setting.

Each member of this group brings their own experiences in dealing with special education needs. We are attorneys, social workers, students, parents, and family members. Each of our lives have been touched in some way by a person who either has or has had special education needs.

What We Do

It is our goal to provide basic training to parents, professionals, and lay advocates in the area of special education advocacy. This basic training gives an overview of the law, practical advice on working with the school system, and the steps in the process from evaluation to implementation of the educational plan.

Resource Center

A Special Education Resource Center has been created at Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS) office to provide on-site assistance to parents. Available in the center is access to computers and available volunteers ready to assist in letter writing and research.

Appointments and walk-ins are welcome.



Advocacy

We have a list of volunteer advocates that can help parents throughout the process, along with volunteer attorneys to handle the more adversarial proceedings if things cannot be resolved before that point. Please contact us if you or someone you know may require these services and we would be happy to pair you with an advocate.

Training Opportunities

If you as a parent or a professional are interested in attending a training session, please contact us at MALS at 901-523-8822 ext.101. We are happy to work with both individuals and groups to try to accommodate requests for trainings at no cost to participants.

The experience of the trainings are optimized with a group of between 10 and 20 participants. This allows for greater participation and opportunity to answer individualized questions.

Research

The research portion of this project is designed to test the effectiveness of the trainings and to assist in furthering the program with the hopes of establishing a permanent resource to parents. Anonymous data materials will be collected from each participant following the trainings to ensure participants privacy is protected and training goals are being met.