



**CLAYTON COUNTY
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"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!"

P.A.C.E.S

Parent Advisory Council For Exceptional Students



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PACES Sign In

<https://forms.gle/Nj2SWi2gQydHiMa67>



Mrs. Adiaha Johnson,
Secondary Coordinator

DES Compliance Coordinator



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Agenda

- Introduction of CCPS team members
- Statement of Purpose of P.A.C.E.S
- Membership
- Meeting Norms
- Overview of the P.A.C.E.S meetings
- Recruitment of PALS
- Sharing of Family Liaison website
- Announcements
- Q&A



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INTRODUCTION OF DISTRICT STAFF



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Mrs. Trina Smith,
Director of the Department
of Exceptional Students



Dr. Lisa Thomas,
Assistant Director of the
Department of Exceptional
Students

Leadership Team



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Mrs. Lisa Strickland
DES Family Liaison



Mr. Ted Fields
DES Family Liaison

DES Family Liaisons



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Family Liaison Role and Responsibilities

The DES Family Liaisons...

- Are representatives of the Georgia Department of Education's Parent Mentor Partnership program and parents/guardians of children with disabilities
- Bridge any gaps between families and the school district
- Facilitate communication and collaboration
- Promote parent engagement
- Provide training and resources
- Lead P.A.C.E. meetings



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P.A.C.E.S

Parent Advisory Council for Exceptional Students

P.A.C.E.S is a committee made of volunteer parents who represent the interests of the school community and are a valuable bridge between the Department of Exceptional Students (DES) and parents of students with disabilities.

Objective: To establish a proactive communication process between parents and DES, and to promote family engagement and support for students with disabilities.



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Vision Statement

P.A.C.E.S seeks to offer an inclusive and collaborative platform where every parent of a student with a disability is empowered, supported, and provided with equal opportunities to engage in brainstorming, discussing and making recommendations for special education initiatives.

Mission Statement

P.A.C.E.S. mission is to support initiatives for students with disabilities through collaboration and sharing. The group strives to enhance awareness, explore resources, and review practices that empower families of students with disabilities.

DES Role and Purpose

The role of the Department of Exceptional Student is to ensure that students with disabilities (SWD) are educated in a manner which addresses each student's unique differences and needs.



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Goals

- Advise and Support
- Community Awareness
- Family Engagement and Resources
- Collaboration with School Representatives
- Student Empowerment
- Continuous Improvement



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Membership Guidelines

Members and attendees of P.A.C.E.S must be:

1) parents or guardians of students with disabilities currently enrolled in Clayton County Public Schools

or

1) Students, age 18 or older, whose educational rights have transferred to them



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Membership Guidelines

Individuals acting in the roles below are not eligible to be P.A.C.E.S member or participant:

- Lawyers
- Advocates
- Community Officers
- Vendors
- District Employees that are not parent of a student with a disability (may be invited as a guest speaker)



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Meeting Norms

One of the most **sincere**
forms of **respect** is
actually listening to
what **another** has to say.

Bryant H. McGill

- ***Respectful Communication:*** Listen actively and speak respectfully to each other.
- ***Confidentiality:*** Respect the privacy of members, students, and families.
- ***Stay Focused on Mission and Goals:*** Keep individual input and discussions relevant to the group's purpose and designated topics.
- ***Constructive Feedback:*** Offer feedback in a supportive, respectful and constructive manner.
- ***Equitable Participation:*** Encourage all members to participate and share their perspectives.
- ***Preparedness:*** Come to meetings prepared.
- ***Punctuality and Time Management:*** Join meetings on time.
- ***Be Solution-Oriented:*** Focus on working together *Follow-Up on Actions:* Commit to following through on assigned tasks



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P.A.C.E.S Meetings

- Held every other month
- Conducted virtually
- PALs' led discussions and advisement
- Review of announcements

Power-up Workshops

- Held every other month
- Conducted virtually
- Training and information delivered by guest speakers
- Topics based upon need and interest

Meetings



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Recommended Topics

Utilizing the notecards provided please suggest/recommend:

- 1. Topics that you would like discussed for P.A.C.E.S Meetings**
- 1. Topics that you would like to know more information about to be presented at Power up Workshops**



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Standard Operating Procedures



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Parent Advisor Leader (PAL) Role and Responsibilities

PALs will :

- Lead groups, facilitate open communication, promote parent engagement, and maintain a collegial environment.
- Support productive dialogue and champions positive changes that promote inclusion, equity, and success for all students with disabilities.
- May be asked to serve on department or district committees, representing P.A.C.E.S and the perspectives of a parent of a student with a disability.



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- Parent members interested in serving as a PAL should share their interest with the school administrator
- PALs are required to complete a comprehensive 4-hour training course conducted by the Clayton County Public Schools' Department of Exceptional Students' representatives or designees
- All candidates who complete the PAL's training will be assigned as a PAL for the school year during which they completed the training course
- If/when the number of PALs exceeds the number needed to lead P.A.C.E.S groups, PAL duties will be rotated monthly



**Parent Advisor Leaders
(PALs)**



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PAL Interest Registration

Deadline:
October 3, 2025



<https://forms.gle/xcZL1JHtGfdk6oNE6>



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- Call for Surrogate Parents
- Fall Break observed October 13-17, 2025
- Deadline for interest in being a PALS is October 3, 2025
- Next meeting: October 23, 2025

Announcements



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UPCOMING EVENTS



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PACES MEETINGS FOR 2025-2026

10/23-Power Up Workshop

11/20- PACES Discussion

01/29- Power Up Workshop

02/26-Discussion

03/26 (Face to Face) Power Up Workshop



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Department of Exceptional Students
Presents



THE "VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL"

Art Activities
Popcorn
Hot Chocolate
Face Painting
S'mores
Disc Jockey (DJ)
Banner March
and more...

DES T-Shirt
Order Click
here

OCTOBER 1, 2025
10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

CLAYTON INTERNATIONAL BEACH

2300 HWY 138 SE, JONESBORO, GA 30236



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Parent to Parent Calendar of Events

<https://www.p2pga.org/>

<https://www.calendarwiz.com/calendars/calendar.php?crd=trainingcalender&PHPSESSID=ea75cbad2f6fa887ad215a5405befb4f&jsenabled=1&winh=654&winw=1366&inifr=false>



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Family Liaison

<https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/special-education/family-liaisons>



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THANK YOU

Q & A



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