

PEER Project

A Parent Educator Exceptional Resource, otherwise referred to as a PEER, is a specially trained parent who has a shared experience of raising a child with a disability, and has a child enrolled in the public school system. PEERs are a valuable source of assistance for many families. From personal experience, PEERs have learned that positive teamwork between school and family is key to student success.



The special education PEER project is a joint plan of the District's Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Program, Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS), and South Florida Parent Center. The goal of the project is to stimulate parent involvement and to provide connections for parents with information, resources and learning opportunities. PEERs are provided ongoing training directly related to their role of support to parents by South Florida Parent Center.

A PEER is just a phone call away!

Jennifer Hunlock (239) 287-9113
jennifer@collierstc.com

Rosanne Hogle (239) 775-8527
rosanne@collierstc.com

Para Española, llame al:

Michele Silano (239) 216-6556
michele@collierstc.com

FDLRS Parent Servies
(239) 337-8363

<http://fdlrs.leeschools.net>

Parent Liaison Support

In a joint project of the Collier County Public School's ESE Program and South Florida Parent Center, parents of students with disabilities have local access to parent liaison support. The liaison serves as a contact person for families on understanding major principles of special education, and encourages an effective channel of communication between the school district and parents of children with special needs.

Collier's parent liaison assists parents who may need further explanation or support concerning identification, referral and evaluation; individual educational plans (IEPs); parent and student participation; procedural safeguards; free appropriate public education; and least restrictive environment.



Additionally, our parent liaison assists parents with local, regional and national information and resources with a focus on being a more informed participant in their child's education.

Your Parent Liason is a call away!
Wilbur Hawke, (239) 417-3636
wilburhawke@sfptic.org

Sharing the Commitment

**Exceptional
Student
Education
ESE Parent
Advisory**



Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent
Collier County Public Schools

**Luis Solano, Associate
Superintendent**
Curriculum & Instruction

Karen Stelmacki, Executive Director
Exceptional Education &
Student Support Services

Dr. Sheryl Alvies, Director
Exceptional Student Education
Advisory Co-Chair

Wilbur Hawke, Parent Liaison
South Florida Parent Center
Advisory C-Chair

Sharing the Commitment
www.collierstc.com

What is Sharing the Commitment?

Sharing the Commitment is a collaborative advisory committee to the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) division of Collier County Public Schools. The mission of the Advisory is to work for understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with disabilities within the community.

The advisory has been created:



- To have an active network of parents who work together to provide the best services and programs for our children;
- To educate and support parents in advocating for their children;
- To provide a forum for parents of students with disabilities for active engagement in special education initiatives;
- To foster effective communication, commitment, and shared responsibilities between the school district, parents and community agencies with focus on improved outcomes for children with disabilities ages 3-21;
- To provide opportunities for increased parental involvement and networking opportunities through Sharing the Commitment activities, such as: PEER parents, trainings, conferences, and Advisory meetings; and
- To obtain understanding of policies, programs and practices, and legislation that impacts services to school-age students with disabilities.

Our Advisory sponsors local opportunities for learning through workshops and conferences for parents interested in furthering their knowledge of special education and related services to students with disabilities.



Who makes up the ESE Advisory?

The Parent Liaison/Director of South Florida Parent Center, and the Director of Exceptional Student Education *co-chair* the ESE Advisory. General membership is open to any interested person. A voting member is limited to the Advisory Board membership.

The Advisory Board includes parents of children receiving special education services in the school district, district and school-based administrators, Florida Department of Education discretionary project coordinators, and community agencies who provide not-for-profit services and support to Collier's students with disabilities.

When are ESE Advisory meetings?

Collier's ESE Advisory, Sharing the Commitment, meets every other month during the school year. There are a total of five meetings per year, and one local annual conference for parents of students with disabilities.

For meeting and conference information, call **(239) 377-0108** or you can find information online at <http://www.collierstc.com>. You will find all meeting minutes posted on this website, along with an archive of past meetings.



Why should you be involved in Sharing the Commitment?

Sharing the Commitment members want to make a difference in the education of all children. Through your participation, you will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills necessary to become more comfortable in your role as a partner in the education process. Sharing the Commitment offers parent education in special education instruction, related services, District practices, and pending legislation.



If you have any questions about Collier County Public Schools Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program and services, please reference the district website at <http://www.collierschools.com/e/e/> or you may call:

- Your child's school Intervention Support Specialist, or
- A district ESE administrator at **(239) 377-0108** or **(239) 377-0153**.