

Bridging the Gap

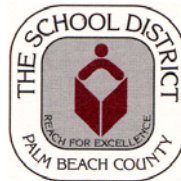
Bridging the gap between families of children with special educational needs and available supports is a major role of a PAL.

Parents as Liaisons are available to listen, answer questions and refer parents to appropriate school personnel or other community agencies.



Parents As Liaisons (PALs)
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**PARENT SERVICES
FDLRS/ALPHA
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION**



The Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS) is funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B; IDEA Part B, Pre-school; and State General Revenue funds.

Parents As Liaisons



Artist: Alex Saag
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Palm Beach County

Parents Helping
Parents
By Promoting
Positive
Educational
Experiences for
Children, Families
& Educators

Who are the PALS?

Parents As Liaisons (PALS) are parents of students with disabilities who are enrolled in the School District of Palm Beach County. The PALS have received special training in the following areas:

- ◆ IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
- ◆ State Law
- ◆ Individual Education Plans/504 Plans
- ◆ Mediation
- ◆ Classroom Strategies/Inclusion
- ◆ Advocacy
- ◆ Disability and Network Information

As parents of children with special needs, the PALS are uniquely able to assist parents and educators in a variety of ways. (PALS encourage home-school relationships by facilitating positive pro-active communication between families and educators.)

The PALS are contracted consultants with the Department of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS).

Parents As Liaisons Mission:

To promote the positive educational experience of exceptional students by:

- ◆ Providing families with information and guidance on how to access educational and community services.
- ◆ Emphasizing and strengthening family roles and responsibilities in the education process.
- ◆ Providing parents and school staff with up-to-date resources and support.

Parents as Liaisons are available to help teachers, administrators and all support staff build more effective relationships with families.

Do you need a PAL?

- ◆ To answer your questions about your child's education?
- ◆ To answer your questions about IEP's and other acronyms and jargon?
- ◆ To answer your questions about district policies and procedures?
- ◆ To attend an IEP meeting with you?
- ◆ To provide information on parenting the child with special needs?
- ◆ To provide a referral to community, state or federal resources?

