
Pennsylvania Department of Education
Title I State Parent Conference

SPAC Conference
Call for Presenters

Seven Springs Resort, Champion PA

July 15-17, 2013

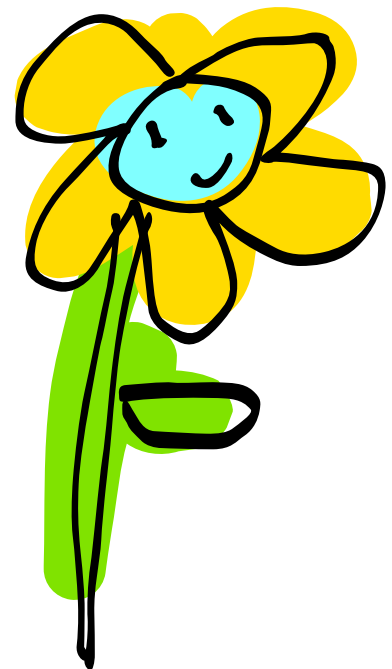
Title I State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) is seeking presenters for the 18th annual Title I Parent Conference on July 15-17, 2013 at Seven Springs. This event is the largest of its kind in the state. It is unique because it is the only parent conference in which an award-winning child care staff offers a day camp for kids ages 4-12. The event's casual format is a great opportunity to inform and motivate parents to become more involved in school.

As always, workshops regarding topics dealing with parent leadership; the parent school connection; the Title I law; and core subjects such as reading, writing, mathematics and science are popular. In addition to these sessions, bullying workshops and panel discussions will be a focus of this year's conference. We have included a flyer about bullying, and if someone you know is experienced in this area, please share this with him/her.

Although funding for this conference does not allow us to offer an honorarium to presenters, we can pay for lodging and conference meals at Seven Springs, plus mileage.

School staff, parents, or community groups and organizations that would like to share innovative strategies to engage parents in their child's education are encouraged to complete a presenter application and return it to us by May 16, 2013. You can also download a fillable form at the SPAC website, www.spac.k12.pa.us. Click on the Welcome at the upper right-hand corner of the page. The presenter application is at the bottom of the left column.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, or if you would like to receive this form through the mail, please call 1-800-942-8035, extension 1244 (Carrie).



Call for presenters about our Bullying Strand



At this year's State Parent Advisory Conference, SPAC parent volunteers are including a bully prevention strand. We are actively recruiting organizations and individuals that can contribute their expertise on this topic.

The idea for this conference's focus was prompted by the February release of the DVD entitled *Bully: Fostering Empathy and Action in Schools* directed by Lee Hirsch. Bullying is one of the most pervasive problems in our schools. This film is very powerful and honest. We will show the documentary following Tuesday's banquet. SPAC will also provide all parents with *A Guide to the Film Bully* that accompanies the film.

The Nation School Safety Center calls bullying "the most enduring and underrated problem in American schools." Bullying is commonly defined as one or more individuals inflicting physical, verbal, or emotional abuse on another person repeatedly over a period of time. Victims do not intentionally provoke these negative acts, and they have difficulty defending themselves. Bullying occurs every day in our schools regardless of size or socio-economic background.

Research shows that sixty percent of childhood bullies go on to commit adult crimes. They are inclined to have more convictions for drunk driving, to be more abusive to their spouses, to have children who become bullies themselves, and to experience less success in school and work. Bullying is not limited to sensational episodes that make the headlines and involve guns, knives, and bombs. More often bullying is less dramatic but it is, nonetheless, a source of isolation, depression, and fear for many students. Bullying undermines the efforts of school staff to create a climate that promotes student success, and it has a negative impact on all learners.

Strong leadership and an ongoing pledge from school administrators to promote safe schools for all students is a good start; however, the best safe school programs involve the coordinated efforts of administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, law enforcement officers, and community partners. Since bully/victim problems do not disappear at the end of the school day, parental involvement is important in creating an environment in which all children feel safe, accepted, and valued. Parents should also be included in intervention and prevention efforts. They often have the same problems that teachers experience with their children at school. Guidance counselors can provide supports and link home and school intervention strategies to reduce bully/victim problems.

If you are interested in delivering a bullying workshop at the SPAC conference, please follow this link to access a presenter application: www.spac.k12.pa.us. Look for the link in the left column. Complete the form and return it to us by May 16, 2013. If you have any questions, call 1-800-942-8035, extension 1244 and ask for Carrie.

If you know a parent of a child who is a victim or a bully, these workshops may be a great way to begin the conversation about bullying in the school.

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Presenter Application

(NOTE: SPAC CAN PAY FOR NO MORE THAN TWO PRESENTERS PER WORKSHOP)

Contact Person: _____

Title/Position: _____

Organization: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone (with area code): _____ FAX: _____

Cell Phone (optional): _____ email Address: _____

Session Title: _____

#2 Presenter Name/Title (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed: (Equipment other than listed below must be provided by presenter.)

- Overhead Projector/Screen
- VCR/Monitor
- Flip Chart
- LCD Projector for Powerpoint Presentations

Room Set-Up Preferred: Theatre (Standard set-up) Classroom (Maximum of 50 participants)

Maximum Number of Participants Preferred: 25-50 50-75 75-100 100+

Travel/Lodging Expenses: SPAC will provide lodging and meals for presenters in lieu of an honorarium (no exceptions).

Lodging Needed: Yes No Nights: Monday Tuesday

• **Tentative Schedule**

Sessions will be offered on Tuesday, July 16, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, July 17, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and ending at noon.

• **Workshop Attendance**

We anticipate attendance at workshops to be an average of 35-50/session. Please use this figure when preparing handouts.

• **Workshop Confirmations**

Confirmation of the date/time of your workshop will be mailed during the first week of June.

• **Please return completed form by May 16, 2013 to:**

Pat Kriley, Director, State & Federal Programs, 453 Maple Street, Grove City, PA 16127 or FAX: 724-458-5083.

• **If appropriate, include your resume.**

Name _____

Brief Description of Session
(sessions are assigned in one hour time blocks)

This description should be approximately 60 words long and be suitable for inclusion in the conference program. Indicate what age group this session covers and any special scheduling requests.