

## Contacting the PAC

If you would like information about the Parent Advisory Committee please call:

Chairperson ~ Sue Lange (989) 975-2657  
or  
Designee ~ GERALYN KOLAR (989) 269-3464

Visit our website at  
[http://tiny.cc/huronisd\\_pac](http://tiny.cc/huronisd_pac)



Huron ISD Parent Advisory Committee

We meet approximately 4-6 times per year at the HISD office. Please call 269-3464 for the dates and times of our meetings. Please feel free to attend any meetings. You are always welcome.

1299 S. Thomas Road Suite 1

Bad Axe, MI 48413

Huron Intermediate  
School District

PARENT  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

*For Special Education*



### Representing:

Bad Axe, Caseville, Harbor Beach,  
Elkton-Pigeon-Bay Port Lakers,  
North Huron, Owen-Gage,  
Ubyly, Rural Schools  
and Huron Learning Center

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## About The PAC

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve as a communication link between parents, Huron ISD, and local school districts, to support parents of children with disabilities and to insure proper channeling of concerns that arise so that constructive solutions may be found.

The Parent Advisory Committee, represents parents of children with disabilities. This is a parent driven committee with support from the HISD in the form of a designee. It is composed of up to two parents from each of the local school districts. The State of Michigan *mandates* this committee. The PAC's primary function is to go over the HISD's plan for implementing programs and services. We share our thoughts as to how we feel this will impact our school districts. We also act as a resource for parents needing information or help with the special education process. *We believe that parents are an important part of a child's education.*



## COULD MY CHILD HAVE A DISABILITY? Some Early Warning Signs

You may have some concerns already. No parent wants to think their child may have a disability. These are some things to look for in your child:

- Squinting. Does your child close both his eyes a lot? Do they seem to cover one eye?
- Difficulty in reading, writing and spelling.
- Have a hard time remembering information and instructions.
- Child seems like a "smart kid" yet struggles terribly in school.
- Your infant/child doesn't make eye contact.
- Any regression in developmental milestones.
- Doesn't respond to their name or to loud noises.
- Appears disinterested or unaware of other people or what's going on around them.
- Speaking with an abnormal tone of voice, or with an odd rhythm or pitch.
- Is always "on the go" as if driven by a motor.
- Has trouble staying organized, planning ahead or finishing tasks.
- They throw intense or violent tantrums.
- Lacks imaginative play or always wants to play alone.
- Poor visual motor coordination.
- Failure to see consequences for actions.

These and other signs/symptoms may mean your child has a disability. The only sure way to know is to have them checked out. Seeing your doctor or calling Project Find will help you get the right information. If your child does have a disability, early intervention and treatment can make a dramatic difference in their life.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

So you have an idea that your child may have a problem. Where do you go from here and what will happen next?

- You can raise concerns with your child's doctor or teacher.
- You can call to set up an appointment with Project Find (989) 269-9274.

### REMEMBER

*IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CHECKED OUT.*

It's a scary thought that your child may have any kind of disability. We know! Getting them help early is the best thing you can do.

You may feel like you're alone in this, but you aren't.



The PAC is here to help you.

**Sometimes everyone needs a little help. Don't be afraid to ask for it.**

### IFSP

Individualized Family Service Plan

### IEP

Individualized Educational Program

A Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team is a group of professionals who are responsible for evaluating a student suspected of having a disability. The team shall include at least 1 special education teacher or other specialist who has knowledge of the suspected disability. They will provide a comprehensive assessment and recommendation for your child's education needs.

## TIPS FOR MEETINGS

### BEFORE

- Gather records you think may be helpful.
- Write down what you want to say.
- Get advice. *(Sometimes it helps to talk to people who are familiar with the process, such as another parent who has been through this process for their children.)*
- Consider what your child's needs and abilities are.
- The PAC has a handbook on the IEP process and we also offer information on our website.

**Think about what your child needs. You know your child best.**



### AT THE IFSP or IEP

- Invite someone for support.
- Share your ideas ~ **YOU KNOW YOUR CHILD BEST.**
- Ask questions.
- Keep discussions positive.
- Bring records or reports from other professionals or schools.
- Don't feel pressured. Be sure you are comfortable with all the plan and understand all its points. You may take it home to reread and look over with someone else.

## RESOURCES

- Autism Society of Michigan (517) 882-2800 [www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org)
- The ARC (800) 292-7851 (the formerly Association for Retarded Citizens)
- C.A.U.S.E. (Citizen's Alliance to Uphold Special Ed) [www.causeonline.org](http://www.causeonline.org)
- Center for Parent Information and Resources [www.parentcenterhub.org/resources/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/resources/)
- Children's Special Health Care Services (989) 269-9721 ext. 133
- Department of Human Services (989) 269-9201
- Huron Behavioral Health [huroncmh.org](http://huroncmh.org) (800) 356-5568
- Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan [www.laofmichigan.org](http://www.laofmichigan.org)
- National Down Syndrome Society [ndss.org](http://ndss.org) (800) 221-4602
- Project Find & Early On ~ Huron County [huronisd.org](http://huronisd.org) [1800earlyon.org](http://1800earlyon.org) (989) 269-9274 / (800) Early-On
- Social Security Offices [ssa.gov](http://ssa.gov) (877) 895-0042
- United Cerebral Palsy [ucp.org](http://ucp.org) (800) 872-5827

The PAC is here to help you, too. As parents of a child with a disability we know what it's like. We've been there. We are a great sounding board and source of information. Please utilize us. We understand and care.

