



PC READS ADVOCATE PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

Thank you for reaching out to PC READS. We have prepared this document to let you know what you can expect from our Advocate Program, which has been developed to ensure that families receive the support needed to ensure that their children become successful students and confident individuals.

ADVOCATE TRAINING

Our Advocates have completed the online Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program through The Dyslexia Training Institute of San Diego, CA. PC READS provides ongoing professional development to our Advocates, including attendance at the annual Wasatch Reading Summit. Advocate bios are available on our website: <https://parkcityreads.org/advocate-program/>.

ADVOCATES ARE VOLUNTEERS

The Advocate Program is directed by Elissa Aten, who is employed by PC READS as Executive Director and also a Certified Advocate. All other Advocates are volunteering their time to work with families and do not receive payment for their work. PC READS estimates that the cost for private advocacy services ranges from \$75 to \$200 per hour. We are thankful for their service!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thanks to grants and donations, we are fortunate to offer our Advocate Program services at no cost to families. Although Advocates volunteer their time, there are program costs for ongoing professional development, training stipends, program resources, and program management. Grants supporting this program have been received from the Park City Community Foundation, the Park City Rotary Club, and the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation. Individuals may make tax-exempt donations to PC READS at www.parkcityreads.org. PC READS has two annual fundraisers: Gin & Phonics (May 8, 2020) and Live PC Give PC (November 6, 2020).

ADVOCATE SERVICES

Below is a list of the services that our Advocates may provide to a family. We recognize that each student's situation is unique and understand that each family's journey will differ. With that in mind, families will work with their Advocate to customize a plan to meet their student's needs. Advocates are available to do the following:

- Provide resources
- Meet with families (by phone or in person) to review documents
- Review results of school and/or private testing
- Attend school IEP and 504 Plan meetings (Advocates do not attend general parent-teacher school conferences)
- Communicate with school personnel, with parental consent
- Share information about PC READS events, including our MIND Youth Program

PARENT ROLE

As parents, you are your student's most important advocate and we view this service as developing a collaborative partnership between a family and PC READS. In an effort to ensure that our service meets your needs, we respectfully ask the following:

- Please consider your assigned Advocate your first point of contact with PC READS
- Please discuss correspondence preferences with your Advocate (text, email, phone, time of the day, etc.)
- When applicable, please complete consent forms for school communication
- Should you not receive a prompt response from your Advocate on an urgent matter, please reach out to Elissa Aten at elissa.pcreads@gmail.com
- Please read our E-News for PC READS updates on events & more
- Please complete our Annual Family Update, which will typically be sent out at the beginning of the school year (we promise to keep this survey short!)

As students grow and change, so do their needs for support, necessitating a growing level of expertise to advocate for the student. Having access to a trained advocate can be an invaluable resource to parents, as they educate themselves on how to best assist their child. – PC READS Advocate

I am grateful for PC READS. Without their Advocate Program, our daughter might still be undiagnosed, frustrated, and without intervention help. I know of other families who agree with me that PC READS is a lighthouse in our community for families with children with learning disabilities. – PCSD Parent