



## 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/>.

### ADVOCATE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The program is managed by Program Manager, Molly Dillon, and supported by Executive Director, Elissa Aten. Five Certified Advocates, including Molly and Elissa, provide direct assistance to families.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Thanks to grants and donations, we are fortunate to offer our Advocate Program services at no cost to families. PC READS estimates that the cost for private advocacy services ranges from \$75 to \$200 per hour. Our program costs, including employee payroll, professional development training, program resources and program management are supported through individual donations, grants, and fundraising events. Grants supporting this program have been received from the Park City Community Foundation, the Park City Rotary Club and the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation. PC READS has two annual fundraisers: Live PC Give PC (November 5, 2021) and Gin & Phonics (May 6, 2022). Individuals may make tax-exempt donations anytime to PC READS at [www.parkcityreads.org](http://www.parkcityreads.org).

### 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:

- 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 Program Manager, Molly Dillon at [molly.pcreads@gmail.com](mailto:molly.pcreads@gmail.com)
- Please read our E-News for PC READS updates on events & more
- Please complete our Annual Family Survey (focused on our programming) and our Annual Family Update (focused on your child), which are typically sent out at the beginning of the school year

*As the student grows and changes, so do their needs for support, necessitating a growing level of expertise to advocate for their 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*