



# PORTER COUNTY EDUCATION SERVICES

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Parent Representatives

**Duneland:** Jackie Hood

**E.P./Kouts:** Jessica Kruger

**E.P./Morgan:** Kim Hansen

**E.P./Washington:** Vanessa Moore

**Portage:** Denise Hodges, Niki Ewing

**Porter:** Tracy Ruiz

**Union:** Amanda Taylor

**Valparaiso:** Jessica Witherspoon

## Follow us on Facebook

Keep up-to-date with upcoming events and Town Hall topics by following and sharing our Facebook page with a friend!

 [facebook.com/PCESSEPAC](https://facebook.com/PCESSEPAC)

## Early Childhood Transition

The Early Childhood Transition refers to the process of transitioning from the birth through age 2 (First Steps) into the age 3 program (Preschool). First Steps provides services that are tailored to meet the needs of the child's family from birth until the child's third birthday. Upon reaching three years of age, families have the option to enroll their child in the district's Developmental Preschool program when eligible, where the focus becomes the child's educational needs.

Six months before the child's third birthday, the school district is sent information to begin the process of an Education Evaluation to determine if they are qualified for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The Educational Evaluation must be completed before the child's 3rd birthday.

If your child has a Summer birthday it is important to have the process completed before the school year ends as there are no educational evaluations when school is not in session. This will ensure they are able to begin Preschool on the first day of school.

## January Town Hall

If you attended our January Town Hall, please scan the QR code to let us know how we did and what topics you'd like to see discussed at future events. Your feedback is very important to us!



## Next Town Hall:

**Wednesday, March 6th**

**SELF GYM**

**750 Ransom Rd.**

**Valparaiso, IN 46385**

**6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**

## Contact Us:

If you would like to discuss Special Education matters, email us and include your name and district.

**[pcesparentgroup@pces.k12.in.us](mailto:pcesparentgroup@pces.k12.in.us)**

Visit our page on the PCES website to learn more about our SEPAC and to view previous topics:

**[pces.k12.in.us/sepac/](https://pces.k12.in.us/sepac/)**

# SUMMER RESOURCES



## Camp Lakeside

Valparaiso, IN  
(219) 464-0242  
[www.cاملakeside.org](http://www.cاملakeside.org)

## Camp Invention

Multiple Locations (Hobart, Valparaiso, Highland)  
(800) 968-4332  
[www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention](http://www.invent.org/programs/camp-invention)

## Center for Possibilities

Hobart, IN  
(219) 962-5751  
[www.centerforpossibilities.org](http://www.centerforpossibilities.org)

## Chasing Dreams

Hobart, IN  
(219) 299-9049  
[www.chasingdreams.org](http://www.chasingdreams.org)

## Timbernook

Valparaiso, IN  
(305) 304-8344  
[www.timbernook.com/provider/timbernook-northwest-indiana/](http://www.timbernook.com/provider/timbernook-northwest-indiana/)

## Wabash Center

Crown Point, IN  
(765) 423-5531  
[www.wabashcenter.com/northwest-indiana](http://www.wabashcenter.com/northwest-indiana)

## Traveling this Summer?

Here are some helpful tips!

**Airlines:** Contact the airline you are flying with in advance to find out the accommodations that are available. You can also contact TSA Cares 72 hours before your flight. They are designed to help travelers with disabilities and other medical conditions.

[tsa.gov/travel/passenger-support](https://www.tsa.gov/travel/passenger-support)

**Amusement Parks:** Some parks are now offering disability passes. Disney, Universal, and Great America are just a few that offer their own type of pass.

**Sensory Times:** Designated times often with less crowds, lower noise, and dimmed lighting are now available at a variety of places. Movie theaters, museums, and even stores are scheduling sensory friendly times. Search “sensory friendly” along with your destination to see what they offer.

## Interested in Joining the PCES SEPAC?

We work with School Administration to identify and advise on systemic issues affecting students with disabilities. We do not have formal authority to set policy or issue directives.

SEPACs benefit from diverse community representation. Interested individuals can apply by completing a questionnaire accessible through the QR code below. There are limited spots available in the following districts:



- Duneland
- Porter
- MSD of Boone Township
- SELF
- Valparaiso
- Union

