

The **Excellence in Education Award** was created by the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) of Berrien County as a way to honor those persons who have played a distinguished role in educating and supporting students with impairments.

Who is eligible for this award?

Persons deserving of this prestigious award have gone "*above and beyond the call of duty*" to contribute to the success of the students they serve, including:

Special Education Teachers who work with students in a variety of educational settings (resource room, team-teaching situations, inclusive classrooms, etc.).

General Education Teachers who have provided exceptional educational opportunities for students in the general education classroom and beyond.

Administrators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership on behalf of students with impairments.

Ancillary Staff, including social workers, speech therapists, school psychologists, teacher consultants, occupational or physical therapists.

Support Staff who assist students in the special and general education settings, including paraprofessionals, bus drivers, peer tutors, and secretarial staff.

Volunteers who have improved the quality of life of students through work on school committees, school-sponsored activities, or in the classroom. Also includes businesses or civic organizations which have donated time or resources to serve the special needs population.

What is the PAC?

- The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of parents who have children in special education programs or who receive services within the Regional Education Service Agency (RESA).
- PACs are unique to Michigan. In Berrien County, each local school district designates two parents to represent them on this committee.
- The PAC serves as a communication link between parents, the RESA, and local districts to increase understanding and ensure channeling of discussions so that effective programming for student's with impairments may be found.
- PAC members serve as liaisons between parents, their local school districts, and the RESA, helping all parties to collaborate in the best interests of students.
- The PAC meets every third Tuesday of the month (except December, June, July, and August) at 7 p.m. in the Berrien RESA building in Berrien Springs. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

To learn more about the PAC, get in touch with your local PAC representative, or receive a copy of the Parent Information Handbook, contact
Kristi Craft, PAC President,
at 269.468.6937 or
tkatcraft@yahoo.com

Everyone likes to be recognized for a job well-done.

If you know someone working on behalf of students with impairments who deserves special recognition, nominate them for the

2009-2010
Berrien RESA
Special Education PAC
**Excellence
in Education
Award**
