

## Special Education LEADers Training Program

Historically the perspective of family members has played a powerful role in creating change in the way children and youth with disabilities receive educational services. **The LEADers Program** provides parents with the information they need to be informed and active in special education advocacy at the state and local levels. This program offers parents the tools they need to be an active voice for not only their own child, but also for other children with disabilities in their communities.

### Participants will:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about special education law
- Increase communication and advocacy skills
- Enhance leadership skills
- Expand their network of colleagues with a similar focus

### Topics covered during the training:

- Special education law and regulations
- Understanding tests and measurements
- SMART IEPs
- 504 plans
- Dispute resolution
- Discipline under IDEA
- Effective advocacy
- IEP development
- Working with agencies, community partners, and policy makers
- Least Restrictive Environment



**Southern Maryland Parent Leaders**

*"The Leader training helped me in many ways. I created a vision for my kids and learned how to advocate for them, and in the process, Parents' Place taught me the federal and state laws governing education. More importantly I have been able to share what I learned with other parents so they can also be effective advocates." ~ Sarah, Prince George's county*

## Who Should Apply

Applicants must be family members of children with disabilities who want to develop a better understanding of special education advocacy and make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities. Priority for this training will be given to applicants from **Frederick, Carroll, Washington, Allegany, Garrett and Montgomery Counties**. To apply, go to [www.surveymonkey.com/2014SpecialEducationLEADers](http://www.surveymonkey.com/2014SpecialEducationLEADers).

## Requirements

The program requires full participation in all sessions. You must attend five all-day meetings. If you miss a training session, you are expected to make arrangements with the training coordinator to make up the work and information missed. Missing two sessions will cause the training team to reconsider your continued participation in the program. Participants are required to provide 20 volunteer hours within 9 months of finishing the course. You are committing to promote change using your newly learned skills after the completion of the project. Follow-up sessions will be offered after the program ends.

## Dates & Location

### Dates:

February 8, 2014  
March 1, 2014  
March 22, 2014  
April 12, 2014  
May 17, 2014

### Time:

9 am—4 pm

### Location:

Maryland School for the Deaf, Frederick Campus  
101 Clarke Place, Frederick Md. 21705

Applications due **January 13, 2014**. Apply online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2014SpecialEducationLEADers>

For more information contact Kelly at 410-768-9100 or [kelly@ppmd.org](mailto:kelly@ppmd.org).