

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 vital role in educating and supporting students with impairments.

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### 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's primary function is to review the RESA plan. This plan is a written document describing how special education services in our county will be implemented to meet the needs of students.
- 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 with impairments.
- 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  
Mary Ducshek, PAC President,  
at 269.473.6063 or  
[mdushek6063@yahoo.com](mailto:mdushek6063@yahoo.com)

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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

2008-2009  
Berrien RESA  
Special Education PAC  
**Excellence  
in Education  
Award**

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