

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.

Who is eligible for this award?

Persons deserving of this prestigious award that 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.
- PAC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month (except December, February, June, July and August). March is the PAC Banquet. It is held the second Tuesday of that month at 6:30 p.m. each year. All meetings and the Banquet are held at the Berrien RESA Conference Center located at 711 St. Joseph Avenue, 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 Jackie VanHorn, PAC President, at (269) 487-6156 or jvanhorn71@gmail.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

2019-2020
Berrien RESA
Special Education PAC

Excellence In Education Award

Nominations are due to Berrien RESA by December 6, 2019.

The Awards Banquet will be held March 10, 2020.

Return this form to:

PAC Chairperson
C/O Autumn Poole,
Berrien RESA
PO Box 364
711 St. Joseph Avenue
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

or... email to Autumn Poole
autumn.poole@berrienresa.org

or... Just drop it off at the office of
your local school district.

**All nominees will
receive an
invitation to
attend the
Awards Banquet
on March 10, 2020**

Need more information?

Call Autumn Poole
(269) 471-7725 ext. 1309
autumn.poole@berrienresa.org

**Nominations must be received
no later than
December 6, 2019**

Nominee Information (ONLY ONE NOMINEE PER FORM)

Nominee Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominee Title: _____

School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Nominator's Information

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Nominator's Title: _____

School: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

**Tell us why your nominee deserves this award.
(Please attach a letter of nomination)**

Nominees will be selected based upon evidence of:

- Support, communication, and partnership with parents.
- Efforts to improve and/or sustain the educational performance of students, with special attention given to innovative programs or services.
- Distinction in providing educational excellence.
- You are welcome to have more than one letter of support if desired.

Berrien RESA complies with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan State Department of Education.