

Parent Partnership Council (PPC)

The Jackson R-2 Parent Partnership Council (PPC) is an organization that was formed during the 2007-08 school year to promote a positive awareness and understanding of students with disabilities by providing support to parents, students, and school staff. The PPC is made up of approximately 20 parents, special education teachers and general education teachers. The PPC meets monthly to plan for upcoming events and develop new activities to continue the mission of the council.

The Council's mission is to work collaboratively to assist in making every student at Jackson R-2 Schools feel like a valued member of the student body. The mission is aligned with the District's guidance curriculum in the area of Personal and Social Development and the goals of *Understanding Self as an Individual and as a Member of a Diverse Community* and *Interacting with Others in Ways That Respect Individual and Group Differences*. Identified goals of the organization include:

1. Improving communication and partnership between school staff and parents.
2. Helping parents become as informed as possible about their child's educational services.
3. Supporting our school staff with programs that encourage inclusion of students of all ability levels.
4. Ensuring students are eligible for public recognition and awards celebrating efforts and improvements at school.
5. Establishing public recognition of school staff for their positive impact in the lives of students.
6. Increasing school involvement, graduation rates and gainful employment for students of all ability levels, leading to meaningful, productive lives.

The PPC sponsors DisAbility Awareness each year. The council works with contacts from every building in the district to organize awareness activities for a week each October. The week is highlighted with a parent/student activity night. At the activity night students and parents are able to participate in activities that help them learn more about a disability and the challenges of having a disability. The community is also involved with this activity. Many businesses put the slogan "Everyone Counts at Jackson R-2" on the billboard. Several restaurants offered discounts if the students wore "Everyone Counts" buttons to the restaurant. The two parochial schools in the district also participated with activities provided by the council. The purpose of the week long activities is to increase awareness and build acceptance of those that are different. Awareness is the first step to acceptance and will build the foundation for social inclusion of ALL students.

The PPC sponsors a staff recognition reception. Parents of students with disabilities and their children can nominate any staff member that has a positive impact on their life or on the lives of others with disabilities in the district. Students and parents that nominated the recipients join those being recognized for an evening of socializing and entertainment.

The PPC also has focused on providing learning sessions, by offering workshops during the day and at night. These workshops have focused on topics such as what every parent needs to know about transition, autism, sensory needs, and social skills.

The Parent Partnership Council is committed to improving the lives of students with disabilities. The Council recognizes that it takes everyone (students, parents, teachers and community members) working together, using the same language, working towards the same goals to positively impact all students.