



Parent Advocacy and Empowerment Community Resources



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**Information provided by the
Greater Gainesville Chamber of
Commerce and Santa Fe College
East Gainesville Initiative**

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GREATER GAINESVILLE CHAMBER



ALACHUA COUNTY EDUCATION COMPACT



PARENT ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Advocating for Your Student

Advocacy is the act of advocating for someone or something.

Parent Advocacy: Assuring that as a parent, your child is receiving the appropriate services at school and the quality education he or she deserves.

Advocacy can mean something different for every parent and child, but it generally involves paying close attention to the services and education that a child is receiving, and speaking up to the right people if the child is having a problem at school.

Feel free to speak up and speak out on behalf of your child!

Characteristics of an advocate:

- Be informed – be aware of school policy and educational resources
- Never stop – parent advocacy should continue through all grade levels
- Communicate – converse with teachers, school and community leaders
- Be involved – volunteer, join PTA and/or other school activities

What a parent advocate should know:

- School policies as outlined in the student handbook
- How the school system works
- Specific laws including individuals with Disability Act, if applicable
- Parent training opportunities in the schools and community
- What educational services are best for your individual child, because every child is different

What Else Can You Do as a Parent Advocate?

- Become more politically active and involved in issues related to education that directly impact your child and other children.
- Meet with school personnel, school board members, state legislators and others, as necessary.
- Research education policies and decision-making to determine who is making the decisions that affect your child. Your school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and/or the Alachua County Council of PTA's can be a good resource of information. www.accpta.org
- If you are uncomfortable advocating for your child due to past negative experiences or for whatever reason, ask a friend, mentor, or professional to go with you to the schools or meetings to help you clearly state your concerns
- Consider additional resources available outside of your student's school. Within this booklet are family, mentor, wellness, mental health, legal and several other community resources that can be used for advocacy purposes.



WE EMPOWER COALITION AND ADVOCACY NETWORK

Committed to investing our expertise and resources in order to further achieve our cause. Through positive collaborations and consistency, we've been supporting our community members in a variety of ways. We are now working to make a larger impact by merging resources and assisting other organizations in accomplishing their missions .

Chanae Jackson- Baker

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SPRINGHILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Provide annual parent conference and ongoing support for parents through training and resources at the local church

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 Veita Jackson Carter
 120 SE Williston Rd,
 Gainesville, FL 3264
 352-281-3363
collectelevphans@yahoo.com*

ALACHUA COUNTY LIBRARIES

ACLD's goal is to provide parents and all family members with free, open and equal access to education, information, and entertainment.

*Phillis Filer / Diane Johnson
 401 E. University Ave.,
 Gainesville, FL 32601
 352-334-3957
pfiler@aclib.us*

CDS FAMILY & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

A nonprofit organization that supports families and youth in all aspects related to behavioral health. We operate in 13 counties in North Central Florida and we offer a series of free programs that target the community's behavioral health needs in various ways. Here is a brief overview of each of our programs: Interface Youth Program, Family Action, SNAP ("Stop Now and Plan"), Independent Living, Prevention Program.

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PARENT EMISSARY

Parents are paired with a community volunteer who serves as a mentor to the family. Parent Emissaries work with the family to promote parental advocacy, engagement and empowerment.

PARENT ACADEMY

The Parent Academy is an initiative that provides support, assistance and comprehensive services to parents of Alachua County School students.

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND SANTA FE COLLEGE

To foster and support educational outreach efforts and programs that will empower parents of East Gainesville and the surrounding communities. Parent workshops and advocacy training provided.

ALACHUA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROGRAMS

ACPS provides early intervention and family support services for preschool-age children and their families at the Fearnside Family Services Center.



THE 4'AS AFRICAN AMERICAN ACCOUNTABILITY ALLIANCE

As African American Leaders and Organizations, we will work collectively to address the challenges facing the Alachua County African American community. We will empower our future generations for success.

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ALACHUA COUNTY COUNCIL OF PTA

The mission of all PTA's is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. ACCPTA provides a district-wide PTA connection, serving our local school PTA units and families through events, education and coordinated advocacy efforts.

Pam Korithoski
3700 NE 53rd Ave
Gainesville, FL 32609

alachua.cc@floridapta.org

UF EDUCATION

Identify and advocate for issues that parents experience in schooling. Can provide support through educational teach-ins and individual support for parent advocacy .

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ALACHUA COUNTY EDUCATION COMPACT

The ACEC is mobilizing the community around education to better prepare students for higher education and sustainable careers. This collaborative initiative (leaders in education, business, philanthropy, workforce development, government, parents, & families) aims to improve systemic outcomes in education.

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GAINESVILLE FOR ALL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

The G' NV4All families and jobs team and education team has looked at ways to strengthen families and break the generational cycle of poverty through better access to child care, transportation, early education , support and mentoring

NAACP

Its mission is "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination"

ALACHUA COUNTY CHRISTIAN PASTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

The purpose of the Alachua County Christian Pastors Association, Inc. (ACCPA) is to promote unity amongst clergy. To resource, support and pray for fellow clergy. To empower clergy holistically through workshops, conferences, forums, seminars and various publications.

THREE RIVERS LEGAL SERVICES

Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. is a non-profit law firm with law offices in Gainesville, Jacksonville and Lake City, Florida, dedicated to the provision of quality legal assistance to the poor, abused, disabled and elderly, and to empowerment through preventive legal education. TRLS provides free civil legal assistance to low income families in seventeen counties with three offices and a staff of 35, including 21 full time attorneys.

THE FLORIDA DIAGNOSTIC & LEARNING RESOURCES SYSTEM

FDLRS provides diagnostic, instructional, and technology support services to district exceptional education programs and families of students with disabilities. Service centers include 19 centers that directly serve school districts in the areas of Child Find, Parent Services, Human Resource Development (HRD), and Technology.

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ALACHUA COUNTY HEALTH PROMOTION & WELLNESS COALITION

Formed in 2013, the HPW is a 501©(3) non-profit organization that works to prevent substance abuse, enhance wellness, and provide education to improve the quality of life in our community. We accomplish these goals by raising awareness through our growing partnerships and with activities that promote improved health in Alachua County.

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NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS (NAMI)

NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness

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RIVER PHOENIX CENTER FOR PEACEBUILDING

RPCP mission is to enrich the lives of individuals, families, and communities by providing and promoting the best practices and principles of peacebuilding and global sustainability.RPCP is invested in the prevention, interruption, reduction and healing from violence.

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