



## **LEAD Parent Program**

**Leadership Education & Advocacy Development**  
**Empowered Parents: Educated, Engaged, Effective!**

### **LEAD Parent TEN COMMENDMENTS**

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1. Always be willing to admit when you do not have an answer. Say you will check with The Council staff and get back with the person/parent.
2. Do not give out incorrect or misleading information.
3. Be clear about what your role as a LEAD Parent is and with what issues you are able to help with.
4. Try to connect parents to other parent groups, services, supports, and resources.
5. Treat all information with confidentiality. Discuss identifiable information only with The Council staff.
6. **Always** obtain parent permission **before** talking with school staff or any other professional, and tell parent what information you will be discussing.
7. Try to determine the parent's primary concern and be sure to address it, even if it is different from what you believe or have chosen for your own child.
8. Stress the importance of documenting everything and encourage parents to keep paper trails. Put all correspondence in writing and keep copies. Suggest parents keep a file for all of their child's educational documents and copies of any written correspondence between them and the school.
9. Remember that The Council's role is to empower parents to be educated advocates for their own child. Talk parents through the issues and explain the process so they are capable of doing it themselves. Provide them with the needed information and suggest they bring documentation and records to school meetings. If the school and parents can't come to an agreement, then encourage the parents to call you back and discuss the issues further.
10. The role of the advocate/LEAD Parent is to help parents clarify the issues, explore their options, and develop a plan of action. Remind parents that there is a process they should follow.