

# Press Release

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## **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN KENTUCKY PROTECTION & ADVOCACY AND THE GOVERNOR'S COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE FOR PARENT LEADERSHIP**

FRANKFORT KY, DECEMBER 10, 2012: On December 6, 2012, Kentucky Protection & Advocacy, a client directed legal rights agency that protects and promotes the rights of Individuals with disabilities, and the newly appointed Governor's Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (GCIPL), an independent non-profit organization developed by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, announced a partnership to educate and prepare parents and caregivers of students with disabilities to become active participants in Kentucky's education system.

This GCIPL will include specific special education advocacy information. Additionally, participants selected for this training program, through an assisted application process for GCIPL, will be trained in leadership and communication skills, given information that includes achievement data, and provided an explanation of Kentucky's public education system. This will enable participants to work more effectively with other parents in their communities to improve local schools and increase student achievement by designing and completing a project in their school or district. Advocacy skills learned in the program will help parents and caregivers take leadership roles in parent-teacher organizations, school councils and committees, local school boards, and in other roles that can positively influence student achievement.

The institute consists of six days of training, (three, 2-day sessions), from August to November. Attendance for all 6 days is required. Application is open to any parents or other caregivers with children in public school. Tuition, materials, overnight accommodations, and meals will be provided at **no cost** to the parents selected to attend the institute. After the training, there is follow-up and coaching for attendees.

During 2013, at least two institutes will be held with an eventual goal of five or six being planned throughout Kentucky for the year. This GCIPL will be held in Louisville in the fall of 2013. Applications for this institute will be due April 2013.

For more information about GCIPL, visit [www.kygovcipl.org](http://www.kygovcipl.org) or contact Leslie Jones or Joyce Pennington, Protection & Advocacy at 502.564.2967.