

Fall 2015

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Hand-In-Hand Parents and Educators Working Together

*The Special Education
Citizens' Advisory
Committee (SECAC)*

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A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools, Department of Student Services.
Its purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.

SECAC to meet in two new locations this year!

The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) is a group of parents, Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) special education staff, and community members that gathers monthly to collaboratively raise the bar for our children with special needs. Parents often share questions, suggestions, or concerns with staff, who in turn share information about instruction, goals, and plans for improvements in education. We are hoping to add to our numbers this year by moving some meetings around the county. Our goal is to better represent

your concerns to top level decision-makers, strengthen our voice, and serve a larger number of families. In addition to our meetings at the Greenwood Campus in Towson, SECAC is partnering with the Baltimore County Public Libraries. Our April 11th meeting will be held at the Woodlawn Public Library and our May 9th meeting will be held at the North Point Library in Dundalk. Please help us spread the word about our new meeting places. Contact any of the SECAC officers for more information.



SECAC Schedule -Mark Your Calendars for the Upcoming 2015-16 School Year

Date	Topic	Location
September 21	Year in Review/Office of Special Education Goals for 2015-16	Building E
October 12	Common Core/PARCC/Alternative Assessment	Building E
November 9	Superintendent Dr. Dallas Dance	Building E
December 14	No meeting scheduled	
January 11	Struggling Readers	Building E
February 8	Career & Technology Programs; Early College Access	Building E
March 14	Dyslexia	Building E
April 11	What are K-12 Standards Based IEPs?	Woodlawn Library
May 9	Special Education Staffing Plan	North Point Library
June 6	Planning for next year; Election of SECAC Officers	Building E

All meetings are from 7-9 p.m., and open to the public and no RSVP is necessary!



**SECAC invites you to their annual meeting with
Dr. Dallas Dance, BCPS**

**November 9, 2015, 7-9 p.m.
Greenwood Campus, Building E, Room 114
6901 Charles Street
Towson, MD 21204**





Special Education Resource Center presents...

FREE Parent Workshops 2015-2016

We have a wide variety of topics planned for this school year.

Please e-mail Lisa at ldiffenderfer@bcps.org or call the Special Education Resource Center at 410-887-5443 for complete details and a current schedule.

If You Think Your Child Needs Help at School:

- Low To High Tech Supports for Struggling Readers and Writers
- SST and 504: What's It All About?



IEP Parent Participation:

- Special Education Process and Legal Rights
- Understanding Your Child's Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Understanding Your Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards
- Using the IEP Process to Address Challenging Behaviors in School

Transition Planning:

- Exploring Guardianship Issues
- Preparing Young Adults with Disabilities for Independence: Moving Out!
- Ready ♦ Set ♦ Let Go? Kids with Learning Differences CAN Go to College!
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Transition Planning - Certificate
- Transition Planning - Diploma
- What Will Happen to My Child When I'm Gone?



Back by Popular Demand

Let's Talk Series:

- ADHD - Intervention Strategies for Home and School
- Behavior Management at Home
- Help, My Child is Anxious!

Let's Talk Series provided by Tana Hope, Ph.D., Child and Family Therapy Clinic of the Department of Behavioral Psychology at Kennedy Krieger Institute



Recreation & Resource Fair

November 4, 2015
7-9 p.m.

Abilities Network
8503 LaSalle Road
Towson, MD 21286

Featuring over 30 organizations offering recreation opportunities for kids and adults with special needs. Learn about activities for all kinds of interests: sports, art, music, dance, technology, swimming, nature, and so much more!

To register contact
The Resource Center at
410-887-5443 or
E-mail Lisa at
ldiffenderfer@bcps.org

Sponsored by:

Baltimore Collaborates:

A multi-agency group dedicated to supporting families that have children with disabilities

**Baltimore County & City
Public Schools**

Parents Place of Maryland

Abilities Network

Pathfinders for Autism

**Kennedy Krieger
Resource Finder**

The ARC Baltimore

Family Navigator

Maggie's Light Foundation

**JCC - Jewish
Community Center**

**KEEN - Kids Enjoy
Exercise Now**

Capernaum

MD School for the Blind

MD School for the Deaf



IEP Meeting Parent Survey

Sponsored by: Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee of Baltimore County (SECAC)

ATTENTION PARENTS: SECAC is seeking your feedback on how your IEP meeting went at your child's school. We will use this information to generate recommendations for ongoing improvement to BCPS and to highlight current successes. Thank you very much for your participation!

Directions: Please circle the number corresponding to your level of agreement with the statements below.

1= strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=not sure, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree

1. The IEP chair set a positive and professional tone for the meeting.	1	2	3	4	5
2. The purpose of the meeting was clear to all participants.	1	2	3	4	5
3. Relevant data supporting decisions made was shared with me.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I understood the services and resources available to my child.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I was encouraged to express my questions and concerns.	1	2	3	4	5
6. I am aware of which IEP team members have been designated for follow-up activity and how to contact each.	1	2	3	4	5
7. We had enough time to discuss all of my questions and concerns.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I felt the team listened to and respected my input.	1	2	3	4	5
9. My child is receiving his/her education in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).	1	2	3	4	5
10. Additional Comments:					

My child's school is _____ IEP meeting date _____

Please submit this survey by choosing one of the following options:

- 1. Mail to SECAC at P. O. Box 5591 Lutherville, MD 21094-5591**
- 2. Scan or photograph and e-mail to ekhartman@aol.com**
- 3. Bring to the next SECAC meeting (see dates & locations on page 1)**





Community Bulletin Board

The Odyssey School and the Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society at Stevenson University present the

"We All Learn" Speaker Series...

Join us for an informative evening with:

Dr. Jerome Schultz

His topic is:

Stress! The Missing Piece of the LD Puzzle

Tuesday, October 6, 2015
Light fare beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Stevenson's Rockland Center
Owings Mills Campus

RSVP Required!

Send an e-mail to: events@theodysseysschool.org to reserve a seat.



Dr. Jerome (Jerry) Schultz is a clinical neuropsychologist, author and speaker who has provided clinical services, consultation and staff

development to hundreds of private and public schools in the US and abroad during his 35 year career. He is the author of *Nowhere to Hide: Why Kids with ADHD & LD Hate School* and *What We Can Do About It*, which examines the role of stress in learning.



NAMI BASICS FREE COURSE

NAMI Basics is a FREE education course for parents or caregivers of children and adolescents living with behavioral health issues, including ADHD, anxiety disorders, depression, and others. The course provides the fundamentals a caregiver needs to care for themselves, their family, and their child.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL 2015 SERIES

Six classes to be held Thursday mornings

October 22, 29

November 5, 12, and 19

December 3

10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

You must attend all six classes!

Location: *White Oak School*
8401 Leefield Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Limited Spaces—Registration Required

For additional information or to register, contact:

The Special Education Resource Center

Phone: 410-887-5443

E-mail: ldiffenderfer@bcps.org

Sponsored by: NAMI, White Oak School, and the Office of Special Education Resource Center, BCPS



Please join the SECAC Yahoo group to receive meeting agendas, minutes, and so much more.

Instructions for joining BaltoCo-SECAC Yahoo Group:

1. Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo>
2. Click on "Sign In" to create a new yahoo account (if you don't already have one)
3. Once you have a Yahoo account, then you are ready to join.
4. Type in BaltoCo-SECAC then click **Search Groups** button
5. Click on BaltoCo-SECAC
6. Click on **Join Group** button and follow instructions



Questions? Contact SECAC chairperson, Elisa Hartman by e-mail: ekhartman@aol.com