A joint publication of the Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee (SECAC) and the Baltimore County Public Schools, Office of Special Education.

The purpose is to provide families and staff with information related to children with disabilities.

**SECAC Welcomes You to a New School Year: Parents Focus on Students’ Needs**

The parents of the Special Education Citizens’ Advisory Committee (SECAC) have a single purpose; to advocate on behalf of students with disabilities. Under new leadership, the group’s agenda will closely follow the recommendations submitted to Dr. Dance last year, as well as other priorities as listed below in the meeting schedule. Please plan to attend one or all meetings. Membership is not required, and all meetings are open to the public. No RSVP needed. Please contact any SECAC officer if you would like to become more informed about the many initiatives of the new leadership. This is the year that you can make a difference.

**SECAC Schedule for the Upcoming 2016-17 School Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 10</td>
<td>Anxiety: Includes a brief introduction to anxiety followed by a panel discussion with five panelists spanning school counseling, school social work, private practice in the community, and clinical services at Kennedy Krieger. (Bldg. E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>Exploring Secondary Options: Magnet Programs, eLearning, Career &amp; Technology Education Opportunities, Internships, Job Training, Employment Skills, and Transition Planning (Bldg. E)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>BCPS Superintendent, Dr. Dallas Dance (Bldg. E) (rescheduled from September)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Advisory meeting to provide input to district level task forces such as Grading and Reporting, Curriculum, and Magnet Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>No meeting scheduled</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>BCPS Math Curriculum overview and discussion (Location to be determined)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Struggling Readers / Dyslexia / Dysgraphia / Language Based Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Social / Emotional Learning for all students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SECAC invites you to their annual meeting with BCPS Superintendent, Dr. Dallas Dance

December 5, 2016, 7–9 p.m.
Greenwood Campus, Building E, Room 114
6901 Charles Street
Towson, MD 21204
Special Education Resource Center presents…

FREE Parent Workshops 2016–2017

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

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

Possible workshops include:

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?
- The School Discipline Process

IEP Parent Participation:
- Understanding Your Child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Understanding Your Parental Rights and Procedural Safeguards

Transition Planning (Life After High School):
- Transition Planning - For Students Receiving a Certificate
- Transition Planning - For Students Receiving a Diploma
- Ready? Set? Let Go? Kids with Learning Differences CAN Go to College!

Financial Planning:
- Exploring Guardianship Issues
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- 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

SOMETIMES, first aid isn’t just a bandage, CPR or the Heimlich. Sometimes, first aid is YOU!

A young person you know could be experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. Learn the skills so YOU CAN HELP!

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING is a FREE 8-hour public education certification course. Similar to ‘First Aid’ and CPR, Mental Health First Aid teaches individuals a 5-step action plan to offer initial help to young people showing signs of a mental illness or in a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate professional, peer, social or self-help care.

Saturday, September 24, 2016
Loch Raven Public Library
Time: 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Presented in partnership with Baltimore County Public Schools Office of Health & Parent University

For more information or to register contact:
Karen Heinrich, B.S, M.S
Office of Health Services
kheinrich@bcps.org
443-809-6397
A message from Elisa Hartman, past SECAC Chairperson:

For the past 4.5 years, I have had the honor of serving as first the Vice Chair and then the Chair for SECAC. In order to encourage new leadership and growth, and to develop my own growth in other areas, I have decided not to continue in the role of Chair. I offer an excerpt of my year-end report to the Board below. The full report can be viewed at: http://www.bcps.org/offices/special_ed/SECAC2.html

SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2015/16: ADVOCACY AND COLLABORATION

SECAC has enhanced its advocacy presence in BCPS and forged a broader collaboration with BCPS staff at many levels. After the listening session held with Dr. Dance in November, 2015, SECAC filled each three minute stakeholder speaking slot at every school board meeting with a well prepared parent or advocate explaining the (as yet) unmet needs of our kids and community. Instead of including Special Education voices as an afterthought, as has often been past practice, deliberative excellence means a place at the table when most any important educational change is being discussed. SECAC is now participating on working task forces and engaging in collaborative problem-solving with many BCPS offices beyond the Office of Special Education.

THE WORK CONTINUES

Some specific issues needing immediate attention from my vantage point are:
- exploring the development of a Modified Diploma Track (at the state level, if needed).
- providing special education teachers with curriculum that is better differentiated for varying ability levels and does not require extensive modifications on part of classroom teachers.
- enhancing support for students with Dyslexia and executive functioning challenges.
- leveraging the potential contribution of the 1,200 temporary additional adult support employees with systematic training and opportunities for growth.
- providing Disability Awareness education systemwide rather than piecemeal at a few schools.

SHOUT-OUT

I want to thank Rebecca Rider, Dr. Dance, the BCPS Board members, the OSE staff, and Jean Considine for their continued partnership with SECAC and their genuine interest in problem solving and improving services for our special education students. SECAC parents thank all those dedicated special educators, general educators, and support personnel in classrooms every day doing the hard work side-by-side with our kids and doing it with so much heart.

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/ne
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 Baltimore County SECAC then click Search Groups button
5. Click on BaltoCo-SECAC
6. Click on Join Group button and follow instructions
The Odyssey School and Stevenson University’s Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society present the
"We All Learn" Speaker Series
October 13, 2016  6:00 p.m.
Location: The Pavilion at Stevenson University’s Greenspring Campus

A Dyslexic Journey:
From Identification to Success
Panel of Experts to Discuss All Facets of Dyslexia:

BRETT HOLLANDER, Moderator, WBAL Sportscaster, who will share his own journey with Dyslexia

DR. GUINEVERE EDEN, Professor, Georgetown University & Director of the Center for the Study of Learning

DR. MARIALE HARDIMAN, Director of Hopkins Neuro-Education Initiative

DR. MATT MOUNTAIN, President, Association for Research in Astronomy, Director of the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore

Event is free with light refreshments provided.
For more information or to RSVP:
E-mail: events@theodysseyschool.org

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 2016 SERIES
Six classes to be held THURSDAY mornings
October 13, 20, 27, 2016
November 3, 10, 17, 2016
10:00 a.m.–12:00 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