



Talbot County Public Schools Family Resource Center

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o3ACx-dSpoj9Sq1CNYhm11WU6ZVC1CGY/view>

The Family Support & Resource Center is designed to offer support to families of children who receive special education services in Talbot County, including infants, preschoolers and students that attend high school until age 21. We also provide support and information to educators and community members. There are many different ways we offer support, such as: A listening ear, a referral to a person, resource or agency, parent IEP support, trainings, family activities and access to our Lending Library. For more information on any of these services, please contact me at sbehrens@talbotschools.org.

It is my hope that families will feel **supported, informed and connected** through the **Family Support & Resource Center**. Please contact me with any questions or needs.

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." – Ryunosuke Satoro

Stacey Behrens, Parent Coordinator

sbehrens@talbotschools.org

410-822-0330, ext. 179

~ **SECAC** ~

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nvHWhMR-Cyge3fJy-CBXkP-VtmWCNinu/view?usp=drive_web

Quarterly Special Education Citizen's Advisory (SECAC) Meetings

Members, TCPS families & community partners are always welcome and encouraged to attend our quarterly SECAC meetings. This is an opportunity to become a part of a committee that shapes the activities and events available to children with special needs. We plan fun social

events, family activities, excellent seminars, webinars, training events, and help find funding for special needs activities in Talbot County. Currently there are two additional planned meetings to be held on Tuesdays: **February 7th** and April 25th from 5:00 – 5:45. The February meeting will be held in person at the Board of Education Office in Conference Room 1 as well as virtually on Zoom. Please call with general questions or to RSVP.

Please RSVP to Stacey Behrens at sbehrens@talbotschools.org in order to join us for the upcoming SECAC meeting on Tuesday, February 7th from 5:00-5:45.

SECAC will Present, “Help with Homework”

Free Learning Opportunity!
Tuesday, January 24th from 6:00-7:00

- 1. Is homework a stressful time for your family?**
- 2. Do you feel that completing homework takes longer than it should?**
- 3. Are there strategies you wish you knew to help your child meet with success to help lower your child's frustration level and boost his/her confidence?**



If you answered yes to any of these questions, please join us for our HOMEWORK Support session!

Contact Stacey Behrens to RSVP or if you have questions:
sbehrens@talbotschools.org

This Workshop will be geared towards children of all ages. More information will be sent out prior to the workshop.

Family IEP TIP: KNOW WHO'S AT THE TABLE

Everyone at the IEP table should introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Don't be afraid to ask someone to repeat their name, title or purpose if you don't catch it the first time around. Remember to

include the student if they are at the appropriate age, they have lots of valuable input to share!

Who's at the IEP Table?

1 **The Student**
Younger students can share what they like and what they're good at in school, plus one skill that needs improvement. As they get older, they can talk about good and bad past strategies, and help with future planning and personal goals.

2 **Parents**
Parents share a wealth of information: their child's life history, the family's culture and expectations, the student's level of functioning at home and within the community, their medical and social emotional history, and the success rate of past strategies.

3 **Gen Ed Teacher**
General education teachers know the content of each subject area they teach, share the academic expectations for that grade or subject matter, and assist in establishing objectives that are related to the content standards.

4 **Specialists**
Intervention Specialists are specially trained to help students with learning challenges. They are the primary source for developing accommodations/modifications, monitoring a child's academic programming, and reporting the attainment of their goals.

5 **Administrators**
This is someone from the public school district that can authorize funds to provide the services necessary to meet a child's unique learning needs. The individual should also be knowledgeable of the general education curriculum.

6 **Related Services**
These are SLPs, OTs, PTs, school nurses, counselors, mental health professionals, and psychologists. They often have a long-term relationship with the child and family and have seen their growth and struggles over many years.

All information has been adapted from
The IEP Checklist by Kathleen G. Winterman, Ed.D.

BROOKES PUBLISHING CO.
www.brookespublishing.com

If you would like more information on the IEP Process, feel free to reach out at any time.

Fun Free Activities & Upcoming Events
Free Port Discovery Passes!



We have Free Passes to visit Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore, MD. These passes are available to residents of Talbot County that receive special education services through TCPS. Each laminated pass admits four people, age 1 and older. We have 5 laminated reusable passes. This is a great experience and a wonderful way to spend time with the family. Please email or call me at sbehrens@talbotschools.org or 410-822-0330, ext. 179 to reserve the passes. To make the passes available to other families, please return them to the Talbot County Education Center (TCEC) within 3 days of your visit to Port Discovery. **Make sure to call Port Discovery Museum and reserve a spot prior to your visit!**

Thank you to all the families that attended our Kiln Born Family Event on October 20th!



Stay tuned for our upcoming Workshop and Family Resource Fair!

January 24th – “Help with Homework”, Presented by: Christine Redmond, Special Education Facilitator & Julia Smith, AEP Coordinator

April 21st – Community Resource Fair for Families

More information will be sent out prior to these events.



Resource Fair

TCPS LENDING LIBRARY

Feel free to call, email or arrange a visit to check out any books that you may be interested in reading. There will be a check out form as well as a two-week limit for all books. There are some great books that are appropriate for children of all ages, teaching staff and parents. Please take advantage of this great opportunity! Listed below are a few of our popular book titles.

- **The Sibling Survival Guide ~ Indispensable information for brothers and sisters of Adults with Disabilities**
- **Now I Get It!! ~ Social stories that build confidence & demonstrate appropriate behavior “Talking about my day”, “When things Change”, “Social Rules & “Having a Conversation”**
- **More Than A Mom ~ Living a full and balanced life when your child has special needs**

Resources

These websites offer free resources, literature and virtual/In-person training opportunities on various topics.

Parent’s Place - <https://www.ppm.org/resources/>

Maryland Coalition Foundation - <https://www.mdcoalition.org/what-we-do/the-mcf-difference/>

Kinera Foundation - <https://www.kinera.org/>

Pathfinders for Autism - <https://pathfindersforautism.org/>

Kennedy Krieger - <https://www.kennedykrieger.org/about-us/at-a-glance>

The Arc - <https://www.thearccc.org/>

Talbot County Free Library – <http://www.tcfl.org>

CHADD - <https://chadd.org>

Special Olympics of Maryland - <https://virtualso.md.com/schedule/>

International Dyslexia Association - <https://dyslexiaida.org/>

Maryland ABLE - <https://www.marylandable.org/>

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