

Talbot County Public Schools Family Resource Center

The Family Support & Resource Center is designed to offer support to families of children who receive special education services in Talbot County. 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.

Stacey Behrens, Family Support Coordinator
sbehrens@talbotschools.org
410-822-0330, ext. 179

Please see the QR Code below for my Introduction Video! I hope you have a successful school year!



~ SECAC ~

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 four planned meetings to be held on Tuesdays: **September 12th**, November 14th, February 6th and April 16th from 5:00 – 6:00. The September 12th meeting will be held in person at the Board of Education Office in Conference Room 1 as well as virtually on Zoom. From 5:00 – 5:15, there will be an opportunity for parents to talk with each other and get to know one another. There will be light refreshments available during this time. The SECAC meeting will start promptly at 5:15. Feel free to join anytime from 5:00 – 5:15 depending on your preference. Please call with general questions or to let me know if you'll be attending.

Please RSVP to Stacey Behrens at sbehrens@talbotschools.org in order to join us for the upcoming SECAC meeting on Tuesday, September 12th from 5:00/5:15-6:00 p.m.

SECAC Presents “Get Organized - Binder Make and Take”

- **Get organized for your next IEP**
- **Learn the organizational strategies needed to be ready for your next IEP**
- **All Materials and Resources will be Provided**

Time: September 21st at 5:00 p.m. Pizza will be served!

**Place: Easton Elementary School (Cafeteria)
(307 Glenwood Avenue)**

Please make sure to RSVP to Stacey Behrens – sbehrens@talbotschools.org!

More information will be sent prior to this event!

Back-to-School Tips for Parents of Children with Special Needs

By: [Reading Rockets](#)



Our Top 8 back-to-school tips for parents emphasize communication, organization, and staying up-to-date on special education news.

A new school year means a new grade, new teachers, new goals, and maybe even a new school! In order to help you and your child with special needs be as successful as you can be, we've put together a list of eight helpful back-to-school tips that we hope will make the transition into a new school year a little easier for you and your child.

Organize all that paperwork

In the world of special education, there are lots of meetings, paperwork, and documentation to keep track of. Try to keep a family calendar of school events, special education meetings, conferences, etc. Setting up a binder or folder to keep your child's special education documentation, meeting notices, and IEPs in sequential order can also help you stay organized.

Start a communication log

Keeping track of all phone calls, e-mails, notes home, meetings, and conferences is important. Create a "communication log" for yourself in a notebook that is easily accessible. Be sure to note the dates, times, and nature of the communications you have.

Review your child's current IEP

The IEP is the cornerstone of your child's educational program, so it's important that you have a clear understanding of it. Note when the IEP expires and if your child is up for reevaluation this year. Most importantly, be sure that this IEP still "fits" your child's needs! If you're unsure, contact the school about holding an IEP review meeting.

Relieve back-to-school jitters

Just talking about the upcoming year and changes can help reduce some of that back-to-school anxiety! Talk to your child about exciting new classes, activities, and events that they can

participate in during the new school year. If attending a new school, try to schedule a visit before the first day. With older students, it is sometimes helpful to explain the services and accommodations in their IEP so that they know what to expect when school begins.

Keep everyone informed

It's important that routine that will happen once school starts. You can even begin practicing your new schedule, focusing on morning and evening routines, and begin implementing them well in advance of the first day of school.

Stay up-to-date on special education news

Being knowledgeable about your child's IEP and their disability can help you become a better advocate for your child. Try to keep up-to-date on new special education legislation, news, and events. The more you know, the more prepared you will be to navigate the world of special education and successfully advocate for your child!

Attend school events

Take advantage of Back-to-School Night, and parent-teacher conferences to help you and your child get a feel for the school and meet the teachers, other staff, students, and families. Share the positives about working with your child, and let the teacher know about changes, events, or IEP concerns that should be considered for children in special education.

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 4 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!**

Stay tuned for our FREE Family Fun Events!
Kiln Born Family Event on October 19th!



&



FREE Family BOWLING in January 2023!!
There will be lots of fun! Space will be limited!

SECAC sponsored (Free) Parent Trainings:

September 21st – IEP Binder Workshop

October (day to be determined) – Basic Sign Language Workshop

November 29th – Toilet Training Workshop (Virtual)

More information will be sent out prior to these events.

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 most 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
- Ten Things Every Child with Autism Wishes You Knew

Resources

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

Parent's Place - <https://www.ppmmd.org/resources/>

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

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

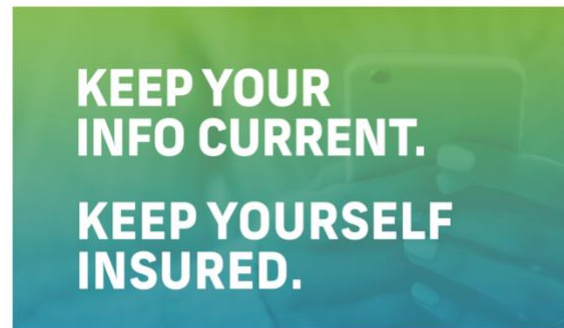
Pathfinders for Autism - <https://pathfindersforautism.org/>

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

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

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

Keep yourself insured!



CHANGES ARE COMING TO MARYLAND MEDICAID.

Medicaid renewals won't be automatic this year. Check in to make sure your contact information is up to date, so that you can receive important notices on any changes to your health insurance.



To get started, log in to your account at MarylandHealthConnection.gov/Checkin or call 855-642-8572



“A new school year means new beginnings, new adventures, new friendships, and new challenges. The slate is clean and anything can happen.”

Denise Witmer

Have a wonderful school year! Feel free to reach out at anytime.

Stacey Behrens, Family Support Coordinator

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