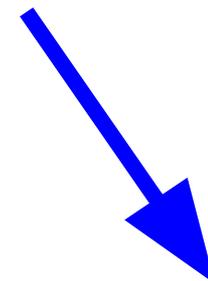


# INTERPRETING SERVICES

## SERVICIOS DE INTERPRETACIÓN

*Simultaneous interpretation is available in Spanish.*

La interpretación simultánea está disponible en español.



# Recording Disclaimer



**This  
session is  
being  
recorded**





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# PGCPS

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## SECAC & PGCPS Town Hall Meeting #1

October 22, 2024



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# **PGCPS PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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Jamal J. Jongo, Student Board Member

Millard House II, Secretary/Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools



# Town Hall Agenda

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1. Welcome
2. Overview of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC)
3. Information from the Welcome Back to School Town Hall Meeting in August 2024
4. Updates Regarding the Equity Focus for Special Education for SY24-25
5. Engage in Town Hall Meeting



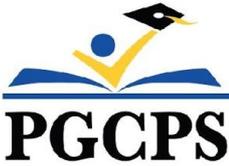
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# PGCPS

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## Overview of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC)

# SECAC



Maryland regulations require each local school system to establish and maintain a Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) [COMAR 13A.05.02.13.I].

- Each local school system shall establish a **Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee** to advise the local school system on the needs of students with disabilities within the jurisdiction. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES) shall annually allocate federal funds to each local school system in support of the activities of the local SECAC.
- Each local school system shall submit a budget for the use of federal funds, consistent with §C (1) (a) of this regulation COMAR 13A.05.02.13.I. It is recommended that the local SECAC Plan is completed in collaboration with the local SECAC leadership.
- The Prince George's County Public Schools (LSS 16) Yearly Plan for the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee identifies the LSS procedures and activities that enable a local director of special education to collaborate with others on local issues to facilitate positive changes in the delivery of special education programs and services to students with disabilities per COMAR 13A.05.02.13.I.

# SECAC



The Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee of Prince George's County Public Schools (SECAC-PG) is an organization of volunteers. We are parents and caregivers of students who need special education. Your input is solicited, valued, and respected as part of our work to advocate for meaningful changes in special education in YOUR community. Don't miss your opportunity to advise the Department of Special Education on educational matters that lead to achievements in students.

## SECAC-PG:

- **Parent LED:** The executive board members are parent volunteers.
- **Parent INPUT:** Your voice and advocacy lead to meaningful recommendations.
- **Parent EDUCATION:** You help set the agenda.
- **Parent PARTNERSHIPS:** School and community stakeholders collaborate for change.
- **General Assembly APPROVED:** Maryland regulations require each school district to maintain a SECAC.



<https://secacpg.org/>



# Function of SECAC

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- Advises the local school system of unmet needs as to the education of students with disabilities;
- Participates in the evaluation of local special education services through the AIP comprehensive monitoring process;
- Participates in review and evaluation of the local school system's Special Education Staffing Plan;
- Participates in the development and/or review of SECAC grant submission;
- Assists the local school system in the formulation and development of plans for improving the performance of students with disabilities;
- Participates in the analysis of local information and data that could benefit from renewed focus--such as review of the yearly Parent Involvement Survey to develop initiatives on identified unmet needs of students and families;
- Submits a year-end report of activities/recommendations ([SY23 Final Report](#))  
Please note: SY24 Final Report is due to MSDE November 2024.



# SECAC-PG Membership Process

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- **Inclusive Membership Process:**
  - No formal application process; attendance at meetings automatically qualifies individuals as members.
- **School-wide Presence:**
  - Advertising across all schools to reach parents and stakeholders.
- **Digital Platforms:**
  - Utilizing SECAC website, listserv, DSE website, Family Support Center website for online visibility.
- **Social Media Engagement:**
  - Active promotion on Twitter, Facebook Group to connect with a wider audience.
- **Community Involvement:**
  - Participation in various community activities for increased outreach.
- **IEP Meeting Integration:**
  - Distributing informative SECAC flyers at schools, to be shared during all Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings.
- **Robocall Initiatives:**
  - Exploring monthly robocalls to all PGCPS families, providing timely notifications about upcoming meetings.
- **Word of Mouth Advocacy:**
  - Members engaging in personal interactions, spreading awareness through word of mouth with families and community members.



# SECAC Meeting Dates and Areas of Focus

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**October 22, 2024** - SECAC Parent Town Hall Meeting 1

**November 19, 2024** (3rd Tuesday) - PGCPS Special Education Programs and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Process

**December** - NO MEETING

**January 28, 2025** - SECAC Parent Town Hall Meeting 2

**February 25, 2025** - School Transitions and Resources for School Transitions

**March 25, 2025** - SECAC Parent Town Hall Meeting 3

**April 22, 2025** - Autism and Mental Health Awareness

**May 27, 2025** - SECAC Parent Town Hall Meeting 4





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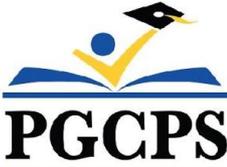
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Welcome Back to School Special  
Education Town Hall Meeting

August 15, 2024

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# Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall



## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION

*Town  
Hall*

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 15, 2024  
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.**

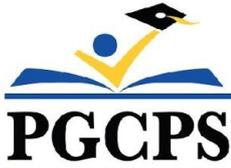
Join the Department of Special  
Education for the first in a series of  
Town Halls!

- 1 LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
- 2 HEAR FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
- 3 LEARN ABOUT TIPS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT YOU!

American Sign Language and simultaneous interpretation in Spanish will be available in the virtual event. Assistance in other languages must be requested directly of the Office of Interpreting and Translation, at least three school days prior to the event. [interpreter@pgcps.org](mailto:interpreter@pgcps.org)



## Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall



# Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall

## Summary Data for Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall

### Total Number

Number of People Who Registered for the Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall

414

Number of People Who Attended the Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall

238

Number of Questions Received for the Welcome Back to School Special Education Town Hall

234

Number of Questions that Required Follow-Up Directly by PGCPS Staff

136

Number of Questions Answered at Town Hall

19

# Top 10 Categories for Questions Special Education Town Hall



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- Autism Services and Supports
- Dyslexia
- Family Support Resources
- Professional Development for Staff
- Secondary Transition Services and Supports
- Special Education Staffing Vacancies
- Speech Services
- Transportation
- Twice Expectational Services
- 504 Services



# Special Education Town Hall Evaluation Suggestions



**PGCPS**

- Make the session more interactive.
- For future town hall meetings, I recommend that you focus on specific topics where the audience can interact in smaller breakout rooms.
- “A” for effort and approach to communicate with families, which is a good step in the right direction.
- Consult with families first and prepare together for future meetings.
- Continue to provide topics relevant to special education.





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# PGCPS

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## Equity: Awareness and Programming Around the Unique Brilliance of Students with Disabilities

There are **16,131** students with disabilities (SWDs) in PGCPS

Approximately, **73.8%** of SWDs are in the general education setting 80% or more of their school day

Most Prevalent Disabilities in PGCPS:

- Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- Autism
- Developmental Delay

Data as of June 5, 2024



# Equity Focus for Special Education

**PGCPS**

**SY24-25 Equity Focus: *Identifying, Honoring, and Nurturing the Unique Brilliance of Students with Disabilities***

## Equity Professional Learning Experiences

What?	When?	Who?
<b>Superintendent's Summer Learning Series</b>	June, July, and August	Open to All Staff
<b>Systemic Professional Development Day</b>	September	Mandatory for All Staff
<b>School-based and Office-based Next Steps</b>	Ongoing	All Constituents

## Student, Family, and Staff Perspectives

- Authentic constituent **voice** is integrated into all equity professional learning experiences:
  - Recent graduate with a disability
  - Families of current students with disabilities
  - Current students with disabilities
  - Teachers and support staff serving students with disabilities
- Lived experiences and perspectives are used to create awareness of strengths, needs, and unique brilliance of students with disabilities and to inform next steps.





# The Equity Foci for Schools and District Offices for SY 24-25

**PGCPS**

To ***Identify, Honor, and Nurture the Unique Brilliance of Students with Disabilities***, the Office of Equity, Diversity and Belonging and the Department of Special Education are requesting schools and district offices to intentionally focus on three areas:

To **cultivate** positive family relationships of students with disabilities in the IEP process.

**(Schools)**

To **develop**, **implement** and **monitor** specially designed instruction (i.e. accommodations, interventions) to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities.

**(Schools)**

To **promote** inclusive practices for students with disabilities.

**(Schools and District)**



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**PGCPS**

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# Town Hall Meeting #1 Structure



# Norms for SECAC & PGCPS Town Hall Meetings #1

## PGCPS

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- Tonight's town hall will be structured as a listening session to hear from you.
- There will be designated note takers for tonight's town hall meeting.
  - Throughout the series of town hall meetings, SECAC will use this information to be included in a comprehensive report that will be provided to PGCPS at the end of the school year.
- Each person will have 2 minutes to provide their feedback or recommendations to PGCPS about special education. Due to the number of people registered to speak at tonight's town hall meeting, we will have breakout sessions to ensure everyone's voice is heard.
- If you would like to provide written feedback or have questions, please send it to [jhflc.familysupport@pgcps.org](mailto:jhflc.familysupport@pgcps.org)





# Norms for SECAC & PGCPS Town Hall Meetings #1

**PGCPS**

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- Please use titles rather than the individual names of anyone you need to refer to in your comments.
- Refrain from using any vulgar remarks, inappropriate language, or making personal attacks against anyone.
- If the norms are not followed, you may be muted.





# Norms for SECAC & PGCPS Town Hall Meetings #1

**PGCPS**

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- Please refrain from discussing your specific student case. If you have concerns about your child's specific case, please complete this link [Parent/Caregiver Contact Follow-up Request](#) and someone from the Family Support Center or the special education leadership team will follow up with you.
- Your adherence to these guidelines will enable the town hall meeting process to move smoothly.



**02:00**



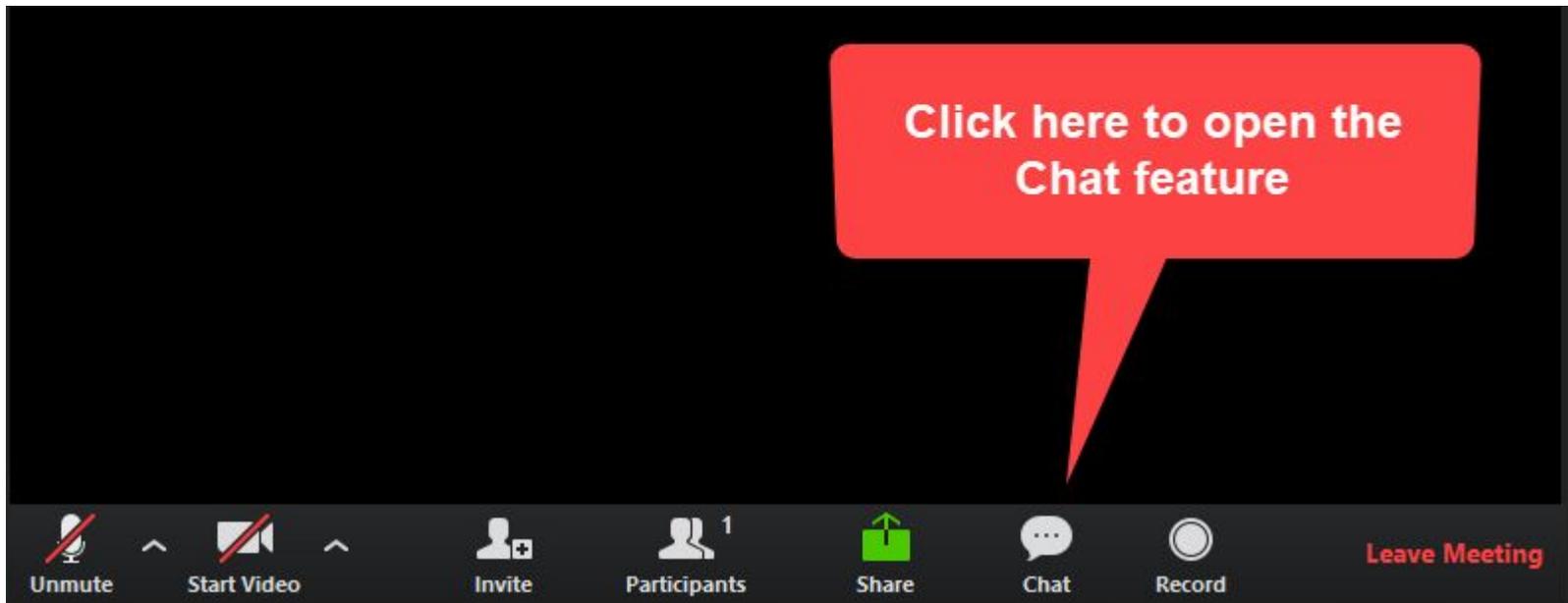
# Town Hall Meeting



**PGCPS**

**Please complete the town hall meeting survey this evening.**

**The survey link has been placed in the chat.**



# Next Steps...



- After tonight's town hall meeting, SECAC will send out the notes via the SECAC listserv.
- The input from the survey will be used to inform the next town hall meeting.
- The input from the survey will be used to develop a comprehensive report to be shared with the Department of Special Education with recommendations from the SECAC.
  - If you are a parent and interested in working with the SECAC Board on the comprehensive report, please contact Ms. Janie Payne via email at [rrmpayne@msn.com](mailto:rrmpayne@msn.com)

