

# Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee (SECAC) of Prince George's County Monthly Meeting

**Agenda  
September 29, 2015**

## **Desired Outcomes:**

Participants will:

- Learn about the history of special education
- Understand why parent involvement is vital to the vision of special education
- Meet parents, PGCPs staff and community members who are working for positive changes for students receiving special education instruction

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEMS</b>	<b>FACILITATOR(S):</b>
6:30-6:35	Welcome & Introductions	Pamela Talley Sarah Wayland
6:35-6:45	Update from Special Education Department X --Introduction, Gwendolyn Mason, Associate Superintendent of Special Education & Student Services	Joan Rothgeb
6:45-6:55	SECAC Business (Elections, SECAC Calendar) Special Education Clinic, RDI Model Sessions	Pamela Talley Sarah Wayland
6:55-7:50	Presentation: The History of Special Education: Why Parent Involvement is <i>Vital</i> to the Vision of Special Education	Josie Thomas The Parents' Place of Maryland
7:50-8:00	Open Discussion	Pamela Talley
8:00	Announcement of Next Meeting Adjournment	Pamela Talley

## **SECAC-PG Executive Board (2014-2015)**

Pamela Talley ([kpztalley@msn.com](mailto:kpztalley@msn.com)) – Chair  
 Sarah Wayland ([sarah.wayland@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.wayland@gmail.com)) – Vice Chair  
 Lisa Wilkins ([lbwilkins.lb@gmail.com](mailto:lbwilkins.lb@gmail.com)) – Secretary  
 Joi Moorer ([joimoorer@hotmail.com](mailto:joimoorer@hotmail.com)) – Asst. Secretary  
 X Amani Kharna ([mkharma@aol.com](mailto:mkharma@aol.com)) – Treasurer

## **PGCPs Advisors**

Joan Rothgeb, Director of Special Education  
 X Mary Bell, Coordinating Supervisor  
 Scott Geist, Instructional Supervisor

Next meeting: October 27, 2015

Topic: Review of Program and Services, RDI and the Family Support Center

Minutes  
SECAC-PG  
29 September 2015

Joan Rothgeb started with a presentation from the Department of Special Education. She asked, "How can we get better engage with parents?" One suggestion was that we could ask parents to fill out a survey at the end of every IEP meeting to mail in where they could provide feedback.

Ms. Rothgeb mentioned that the PGCPs budget process was soon to get underway, and that the school board was going to also start hearings on boundary changes for the 2016-2017 school year.

She also noted that the latest MSDE Survey results indicate that PGCPs has improved in educating more Special Education Students in environments with their non-disabled peers, engaging with parents, and graduating more students with IEPs (an 8% increase).

They are improving academic achievement by:

- working to improve the "Least Restrictive Environment" numbers for kids in early childhood and elementary school programs.
- Developing standards-based IEPs
- Increasing opportunities for professional learning
- Engaging families
- Monitoring instruction (support to schools)
- Monitoring compliance

For students going through transition, they are working to develop partnerships with local colleges and other post-secondary educational institutions.

Ms. Rothgeb also noted that the Partners for Success Family Center has been renamed the "Family and Community Engagement". They are working hard to provide a timely response when families have concerns by enhancing communication and creating a website with resources families can use.



# Special Education Coalition of Prince George's County

## Special Education Resource Fair

### Learn How to Advocate for Appropriate Special Education Services for Your Child

- Meet with an attorney during the Resource Fair\*
- Meet with representatives from Prince George's County Public Schools who can answer questions and hear your concerns
- Community and family resources will be available
- Attend Educational Workshops

**Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Holy Family Catholic Church**

**12010 Woodmore Road, Mitchellville, MD**

#### **Educational Workshops**

10 am: Navigating the IEP Process 101

12:30 pm: Help! My Child Keeps Getting  
Suspended.

**\*Please call Maryland Disability Law Center at 800-233-7201, ext. 2516 by  
November 4th to make an appointment to meet with an attorney.  
Walk-ins are also welcome.**

**Accommodations available upon request.**

The **Special Education Coalition of Prince George's County** is a partnership of family members, special education advocates, service providers, and nonprofit organizations working together to improve the educational services received by students with disabilities in Prince George's County Public Schools. Sponsoring organizations include The Arc Prince George's County, Parents' Place of Maryland, and Maryland Disability Law Center.

**For more information contact:** The Arc at (301) 925-7050, ext. 307.



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## **Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow**

**A Quick Look at the History of  
Special Education**

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**Children with disabilities were  
excluded from school.**

Schools refused  
enrollment or  
provided inadequate  
services



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## Parents started to organize

They came together a few at a time, usually in someone's home.




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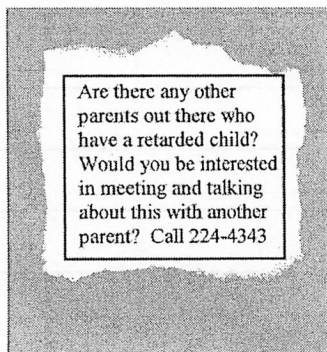
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## Parents placed ads in newspapers

**1000+**  
parents  
responded




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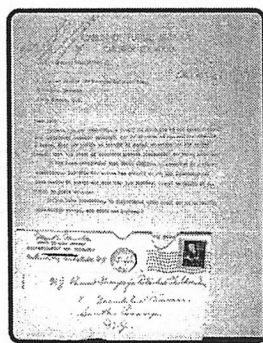
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Letter from a school district seeking help as a parent would not stop trying to get education for their child. (1951)




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**JFK formed the President's Panel on Mental Retardation (1962).**

JFK called on America to address the significant needs of people with disabilities



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**Organizations started programs for children with disabilities**

Children were considered "non-educable" or "trainable"



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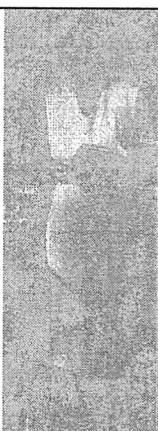
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**"Do not attempt to teach trainable children to read by means of phonics. It can't be done."**

Teacher textbook, 1965



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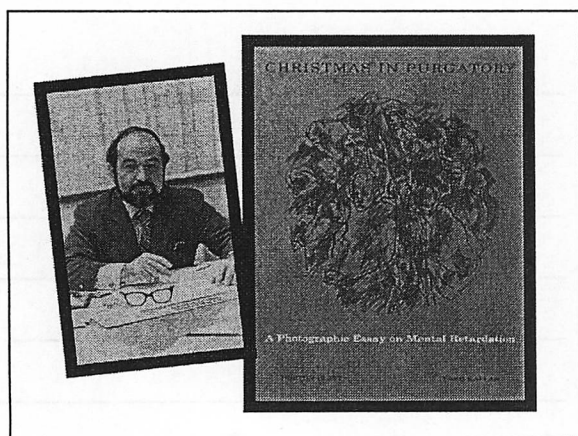
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**Let's take a moment . . .**

Think about the impact of this early history on the special education parent advocacy movement.

Turn to a partner and discuss.

Share your thoughts with the large group.

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**Brown  
v  
Board of  
Education  
1954**

**Civil  
Rights Act  
1964**



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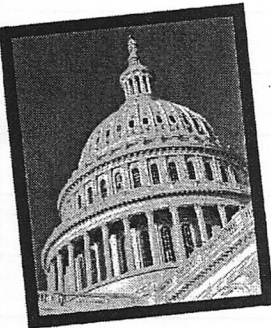
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**New laws mandate special education**



Between mid-'60s and '75 . . .

**45** state legislatures, the federal courts, and Congress spelled out **strong** educational rights.

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**Mills v.  
Board of  
Education  
(1972)**

**PARC v.  
Commonwealth  
of Pennsylvania  
(1971)**



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Since Mills, school districts are constitutionally prohibited from planning special education programs in advance and offering them to students on a space available basis.

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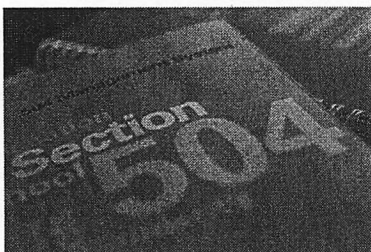
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### Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Disability discrimination is a prohibited for the first time in Section 504




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### Public Law 94-142 guarantees FAPE

Guaranteed a free, appropriate public education to each child with a disability in every state and locality across the country.

*Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975*




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### New law expands services to young children

Before 1986, many babies did not receive early intervention




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### Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Proclaims the right for all children, including those with special needs, to receive a free and appropriate public education.

1990 - renamed IDEA  
1997 - Amendments to IDEA  
2004 - IDEIA




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### The purpose of IDEA is:

"To ensure that all children with disabilities have available to them a free appropriate public education that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living."

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## No Child Left Behind

Holds schools accountable for making sure students with disabilities achieve high standards

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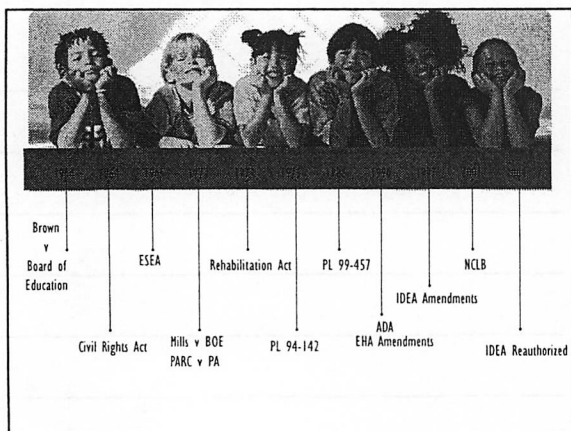
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## Yesterday

**4 million** students in schools were **not receiving** services they needed in 1975




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## Yesterday

More than  
**1 million**  
children with  
disabilities  
were  
**excluded**  
from public  
education




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## Today

**6.8**  
**million**  
students and  
more than  
**200,000**  
infants &  
toddlers receive  
IDEA services




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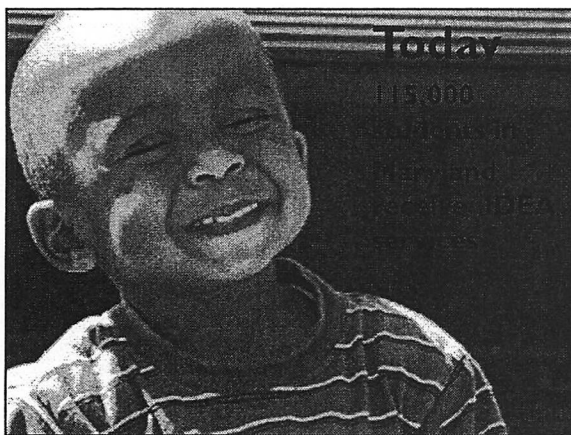
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**So where  
do we go  
from  
here?**



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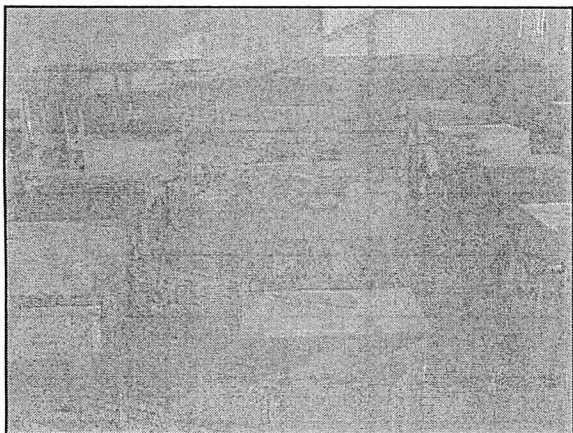
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