

Harford County
Special Education Citizen/Community Advisory Committee
(SECAC)

General Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2026
6-7 pm, Zoom

Attendance (12)

Katie York, Kristy Gizinski, Natalie Brooks, Sharon Dols, Lauren Harper, Colleen Sasdelli, Jessica Huba, Howard Quinn, Danielle Charles, Lorien Covelly, Tracy Masur, Mabel Tendeku

The chair called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Welcome & Announcements from Chair/Co-Chair

- Happy World Autism Month!
- Next meeting (May) is our final SECAC meeting for the 2025-2026 school year
- MSDE Special Education State Advisory Committee ([SESAC](#))
Updates
 - All SESAC meetings are open to the public- next meeting is 5/27 at 10am
 - Contact Kelly Meissner via email at kelly.meissner@maryland.gov to obtain meeting link, register to provide public comment, or request accommodations
 - Special Education Funding Study
 - MSDE is undertaking an independent study to “redesign the state’s special education funding system”.
 - Study is being run by the American Institutes for Research® (AIR®), Afton Partners, and UPD Consulting.
 - [Flyer](#)

- Email MDSEFunds@air.org for additional information.
- Featured Agency Presentation
 - Katharine Lander, Correctional Education Special Education Coordinator, Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning Maryland Department of Labor
 - Lander spoke about special education for youth in prison; significantly higher rates of ADHD reported in those with IEPs
- K. York attended the Disability Policy Seminar in DC March 23 - 24, 2026
 - Event includes workshops, updates on federal policy, and a hill day with visits to Rep/Sen
 - Met with four offices- Rep. Harris, Rep. Olszewski, Rep. Hoyer, & Sen. Van Hollen
- MSDE approved waiver request- last day of school is now June 18 (early dismissal days on 4/17 and 5/22 are now FULL DAYS)
- SECAC leadership will be at the [Empowered Expo](#)
 - This Saturday 8:30-1pm at Bel Air High School
 - FREE conference for teens/young adults (and their families/loved ones) who have IEPs and 504 plans
 - Resources for your journey from high school to adulthood!
- The Arc of Maryland state convention will be on 5/28 at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City; more info: <https://thearcmd.org/events/convention>
- Down Syndrome Association of Maryland www.dsamd.org/events
“Mom’s Night Out” 4/28 at 6pm at Pappa’s in Bel Air

Free, must register [Click Here to Register](#)

- C. Sasdelli
 - MSDE survey
 - 3rd quarter ends 4/10/2026

Speaker/Presenter(s): The Arc Maryland- Sharon Dols & Natalie Brooks

- The Arc Maryland offers inclusive education school presentations led by advocates with disabilities throughout the school year.
- Available for students from kindergarten through high school.
- “Together We’re Better” inclusive education campaign
<https://thearcmd.org/programs/twb>

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 7:00 pm.

Reminders

Next SECAC Meeting: May 14, 2026 at 6pm on Zoom

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_nBT1sNrTvOM_bjl1E_Rcg

Next HCPS Board of Education Meeting: April 20, 2026 at 6pm, In Person (Bel Air) & online

BOE Schedule, Live Stream, & Archive: ww.hcps.org/boe/MeetingSchedule

Minutes Compiled By: Katie York, Chair & Kristy Gizinski, Co-Chair