



Transition Symposium 2016 Stop Waiting and Start Planning

The [Transition Symposium 2016](#) is Saturday, March 19, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cedar Lane School in Fulton.

The symposium is a collaborative effort of the Howard County Autism Society, Howard County Public School System, Howard County Government, and Accessible Resources for Independence, Inc. Allan H. Kittleman, Howard County Executive, will give the welcome remarks. The keynote address will be delivered by Carol Beatty, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, and Karen Lee, Special Projects Fellow of the Developmental Disabilities Administration and Executive Director of SEEC.

New this year, there will be workshops specially designed for youth with developmental and physical disabilities as well as sessions for caregivers, educators, and health professionals.

Workshops for caregivers, educators, and health professionals

Internet safety | Guardianship | Employment | Disability Benefits | Post-secondary Education | Transition Planning

Workshops designed for transitioning youth

Voting rights | Self-advocacy | Personal Safety | Meal Preparation | Planning for the Future

The cost to attend is \$25 for registration prior to March 11 and \$35 per person after. Admission is free for transitioning youth ages 16-26.

[Register online.](#)

Autism Friendly Business Spotlight: Mt.

EVENTS

12 MAR

[Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism](#)

12 MAR

[Fitness First at Lifetime Fitness. Members Only](#)

19 MAR

[Transition Symposium 2016](#)

20 MAR

[Sensory Friendly Easter Bunny at Columbia Mall](#)

21 MAR

[HCAS Annual Meeting with HCPSS DSESS Leadership and Staff](#)

26 MAR

[Yoga for Children and Teens with Autism](#)

7 APR

[The Grille in Maple Lawn Fundraiser](#)

11 APR

[Board of Education Candidates Forum](#)

13 APR

[Sky Zone Party](#)

14 APR

[Asperger's Support Group Meeting](#)

Airy Bowling Lanes

[Mt. Airy Bowling Lanes](#) is home to the Mt. Airy Strikers duck pin bowling league. A league designed for children with special needs, the Mt. Airy Strikers is an opportunity for children and families to have fun and build friendships in a supportive, sensory-friendly environment.

Lisa Boxall established the league as a way for her two sons with autism to meet friends and practice social skills. Without flashing lights or loud music, Mt. Airy Lanes was an ideal venue. "It has been such a rewarding experience seeing the successes of the kids and the support and friendships between the families," says Boxall. Children bowl on teams and siblings are welcome to join in the fun.



"This is my son's first year doing the Sunday Strikers," says Lori Krausz. "He enjoys bowling with his peers in a laid back, welcoming environment. He has become more independent each time--knowing when it's his turn, getting the ball, and then entering his score at the end of his turn. The parents, guardians, and spectators cheer everyone on."

The Mt. Airy Strikers meet most Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For information on joining the Strikers, email Lisa Boxall at lboxall@comcast.net.

Annual Meeting with Nancy FitzGerald and DSESS Staff

Join HCAS for an open, two-way discussion with Department of Special Education and Student Services (DSESS) leadership and staff Monday, March 21, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the [HCAS Resource Center](#).

Director of Special Education Nancy FitzGerald will speak with families and invite them to meet in small groups with DSESS representatives to ask questions, raise issues of importance, and hear more about new DSESS initiatives. Nancy will provide an update on HCPSS special education and on some of the activities and programs they are currently working on. Following Nancy's talk, we will break into small groups (early intervention, elementary, middle, and high school), where we'll get a quick overview from DSE staff and then have open discussions.

HCAS Education Advocacy Committee What is It? Who is It? Why Should I Participate?

30 APR

[11th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala](#)

News and Resources from the SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS CENTER

[Members of the IEP Team](#)

Whether it's your first IEP meeting, or you're a seasoned veteran, we've all been at the IEP table, looked around the room and wondered: who are all these people, and why are they at this IEP meeting?

[HCPSS Extended School Year \(ESY\) 2016](#)

Find out the dates, times, locations, and services for HCPSS ESY 2016.

[HCPSS Collaborative Funding Program](#)

Children who receive services through HCPSS Infants and Toddlers or a Regional Early Childhood Center with a diagnosis of autism or a related disorder may be eligible.

Do you have questions about special education services and rights? We are here to help. Email

AskUsSpecialEdQuestions@HowardAutism.org or call 410-290-3466.

11th Annual Pieces of the Puzzle Gala

Saturday, April 30 from 7-11 p.m.

The Hotel at Arundel Preserve



Join us for our 80s themed event, featuring the sounds of MegaByte.

[Purchase your tickets](#) before April 1 to automatically be entered into a raffle for a complimentary night's stay at The Hotel at

Arundel Preserve to be used the night of the

The Education Advocacy Committee works to enhance and protect the rights of, and secure resources and services for, people with autism and their families through strategic partnerships and advocacy efforts.

The Education Advocacy Committee meets several times a year with the leaders of the Department of Special Education and Student Services (DSESS) in an effort to stay informed of DSESS initiatives and to bring issues of concern and opportunities for collaboration forward.

HCAS strongly advises parents to be "in" the conversation in order to affect the conversation. People who are interested in advocating for systemic change on behalf of their children, and in support of all children with autism, are encouraged to join the committee. If your personal journey has benefited from others along the way, and you wish to give back, this is an excellent way to do it! Share your knowledge with families who need it, strengthen your advocacy skills and others', and join us in our ongoing efforts to strengthen special education services in Howard County.

The committee meets monthly (teleconferencing is available). If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please email Roger Thibaudeau, Education and Advocacy Committee chair, at roger.thibaudeau@howard-autism.org.

[Read more about HCAS committees.](#)

Attendees reserve to be used the night of the gala.

**HCAS Perspectives
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