

2010-2011 Calendar

Meetings take place Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

September 30, 2010: Basic Rights

Citywide Senior Center - 806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
Wrightslaw and FCSN-trained Advocate Trish Orlovsky presents an overview of the rights of students and families with special educational needs.

October 28: Collaborative Problem Solving

Citywide Senior Center - 806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
David Whelan, Psy.D. of Think:Kids, a psychiatric program at Massachusetts General Hospital presents a specialized approach for supporting behaviorally challenging kids.

November 18: Transition Planning

Citywide Senior Center - 806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge
Advocate Shelly Greene, M.Ed., discusses effective transition planning for students aged 14 and older.

December 16: Winter Party

Citywide Senior Center - 806 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge

January 27, 2011: Aspergers Syndrome

Peabody School - 70 Rindge Ave, Cambridge
Jean Stern of the Aspergers Association of New England discusses this diagnosis and appropriate interventions.

February 17: Inclusion

Peabody School - 70 Rindge Ave, Cambridge
Former Haggerty School Principal Joe Petner screens the documentary "Including Samuel," followed by Q&A.

March 31: Language-Based Learning Disabilities

Peabody School - 70 Rindge Ave, Cambridge
Keryn Kwedor of the Landmark High School provides an overview of language-based learning disabilities including recommended interventions.

April 28: Executive Functioning

Peabody School - 70 Rindge Ave, Cambridge
Landmark's Colleen Kelleher provides an overview of executive function with a focus on high school students, including strategies for home and at school.

May 26: Chairperson Elections

Peabody School - 70 Rindge Ave, Cambridge

You're Invited!

C-PAC meetings are held one Thursday per month at 6:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Childcare and light refreshments are provided.



For the first half of the school year, meetings will take place on the second floor of the Cambridge Senior Center on Massachusetts Avenue, across from Cambridge City Hall. Starting in January, meetings will move to the cafeteria of the Peabody School, which is located on multiple bus lines and a short walk to the Porter or Davis Square T stations.

Topics for special presentations are suggested by members. We'd love to hear your ideas and suggestions!

Learn More At:

www.cambridgepacse.org

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Cambridge Parent Advisory
Council on Special Education



C-PAC

*Linking families
of students
with disabilities*

About the Cambridge Parent Advisory Council on Special Education (C-PAC)

The mission of the Cambridge Parent Advisory Council on Special Education



is to work for understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with special needs in the community.

Our purpose is to educate and support parents in advocating for their children.

Our goal is to have an active network of parents who work together to provide the best services and programs for our children.

Our Guiding Principle:

Services are determined by the needs of the child, not the availability of programs or resources.

—**Strategic Plan for Educating Students with Disabilities in the Cambridge Public Schools**, adopted by the Cambridge Public School Committee, July 18, 2000



What Can C-PAC Offer You?

- ✓ A community and support network composed of families of children with special needs.
- ✓ The chance to learn about your child's disability and get advice from families who have "been there."
- ✓ Free workshops on topics identified by members of the PAC.
- ✓ A safe place to ask questions about your rights and responsibilities as a parent of a child with a disability.
- ✓ The chance to let your voice be heard on issues affecting children with disabilities in the Cambridge Public Schools System.

What is a PAC?

According to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Guidance for Special Education Parent Advisory Councils" (March 2010):

For over two decades, parents of children with disabilities in Massachusetts have made significant contributions to improving the education of their children through PACs. Since 1986, Massachusetts state law has required all public school districts to maintain a Parent Advisory Council open to all parents of students identified as eligible for special education, as well as other interested parties.

...Special education parent advisory councils (PACs) have tremendous potential to have a positive impact on special education programs in a school district. PACs can provide invaluable activities for parents, and add an important voice to a school district's dialogue and decision-making.

