



## WEST HARTFORD SEPTO CALENDAR 2015-2016

All presentations will be at Sedgwick Middle School, 128 Sedgwick Road, West Hartford  
(Enter through Wardwell Rd entrance)

**September 30, Wednesday: "Meet and Greet" with West Hartford's Superintendent Tom Moore and Director of Pupil Service, Glenn McGrath**

Connect with other parents of children with IEPs, meet our school administrators and learn more about Special Education in West Hartford. If you have questions or concerns you'd like addressed, please send them to [cberman@snet.net](mailto:cberman@snet.net) and we'll forward them to our guests.

**October 21, Wednesday: Where Do You Start? Addressing the Mental Health Needs of Children**

Join our Director of Psychological Services (name?) and social work staff to hear about West Hartford's new initiatives to identify and support children with mental health needs. Other community services will also be discussed.

**November 18, Wednesday: Behavior Acronyms: What are an FBA (Functional Behavior Assessment) and a BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan)?**

Join our schools psychologist and ABA consultant (names?) as they introduce a new way of thinking about our children's challenging behaviors and provide an overview of the concepts of functional behavioral assessment and positive behavior interventions.

**Wednesday, January 20: Transition Meeting for Parents of Children Transitioning to a New School (Kindergarten, Middle School, High School, Post-Secondary Programs)**

Glenn McGrath, Director of Pupil Services and school personnel will discuss the transition process and programs available to students receiving special education services.

**Wednesday, February 24: Talking About Speech and Language**

Ever wondered what the difference is between speech and language? Are you confused by receptive language, expressive language or pragmatic skills? What exactly IS speech therapy and what skills are required to have functional communication?

**Wednesday, March 23: Preparing for the Planning and Placement Team Meeting**

This training focuses on preparing for the PPT: the roles and responsibilities of both parents and professionals; futures planning, the importance of recordkeeping, and strategies for creating team relationships to foster successful meetings.

**Wednesday, April 20th: Assistive Technology**

What is assistive technology? How do we incorporate it? (Name?) from (business) will showcase the latest technology and applications in use today. Get some tips and tricks to enhance communication skills.

**Wednesday, May 18: TBA**



### **Coffee & Conversation at Panera Bread, Bishops Corner**

The first **Friday** of the month, parents of children receiving special education services meet for coffee and some enlightening conversation. Come join us! All times are 9:00 – 10:00am

**October 2**  
**November 6**  
**December 4**  
**January 8**

**February 5**  
**March 4**  
**April 1**  
**May 6**

----- POSSIBLE OTHER SESSIONS/NOTES -----

- **The Nuts and Bolts of Special Education**  
Parents of children with disabilities will learn how to become more active participants in their children's education. This session will include information on evaluations, record keeping, Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings, Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), Section 504 and dispute resolution.
- **Developing the Individualized Education Program**  
This training focuses on how parents can be actively and effectively involved in the development of the IEP. Participants will learn the key components of an IEP and will become familiar with current Connecticut IEP forms. The workshop will offer guidance about developing measurable goals and tips for monitoring a student's progress.
- **Becoming Your Child's Best Advocate: Tips and Tools for Advocating for Your Child with Special Needs**  
Learn how to effectively communicate with your child's school and advocate for your child's appropriate education. Participants will learn tips on preparing for meetings with teachers, clearly communicating questions and goals, and how to foster positive relationships with your child's teacher.