



# Family Support News



3-28-2025



**Teen Drop-In**  
**Thursdays**  
**Ages 13-16**




Looking for somewhere to hang after school?

Teen Drop-In at the Attleboro FRC is a relaxing space for...

- ▶ homework help
- ▶ movies
- ▶ games
- ▶ snacks
- ▶ and more!

**FREE**

**2:30-4:00pm**



Attleboro Family Resource Center  
AttleboroFRC@oldcolonyymca.org  
774-203-1516

THE ATTLEBORO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER PRESENTS

**FREE** **EASTER BUNNY & BRUNCH**

FOOD, MUSIC & PICTURES WITH THE BUNNY AVAILABLE

These activities is not organized or sponsored by our Family Support Center. We are sharing the opportunities for families to explore on your own. Please reach out to the FRC directly with any questions.

Sat. April 19th  
11:00AM - 1:00PM

Attleboro FRC  
29 N. Main St.  
Attleboro

RSVP by April 17  
774-203-1516



We're collaborating with Community Autism Resources to offer a virtual 30 minute info sessions about the Gottschall Access Program!



Community Autism Resources  
A PRESENCE ALONG YOUR JOURNEY

**Tuesday**  
**April 1st**  
**10-10:30AM**

The Gottschall Access Program is a college experience that offers adults on the autism spectrum a unique opportunity to enhance their life, vocational and social skills which will enable them to participate in internships, and then eventually the pursuit of gainful employment.

GAP takes place on the Fall River, MA college campus of Bristol Community College. Students enroll in a 3-year program of specially designed courses and have full student access on the college campus.

**REGISTER NOW**



Follow The Arc of Bristol County on Facebook for daily information updates and further resource sharing!



**Same supportive group with a new inclusive name!**

**Are you looking to connect with other caregivers?**

**Do you have questions about how to best support your child?**

**Are you looking to meet people who understand the ups and downs of caring for loved ones with disabilities?**

**Join Family Support Coordinator Ida Linquist for our Parents' & Caregivers' Group!**

**Questions? Contact:  
Ida Lindquist  
Family Support Coordinator  
ILindquist@arcnbc.org**

**VIRTUAL**

**Tuesday  
4/15/25  
7-8pm  
Register to receive the meeting link by email.**

**IN-PERSON**

**Thursday  
4/17/25  
10:30am-11:30am  
Family Support Center  
140 Park St 3rd FL  
Attleboro  
\*Refreshments served\***

**REGISTER NOW**



**Mass Advocates Standing Strong  
Southeast Regional Meeting  
Thursday, April 3, 2025  
6:00 PM 7:30 PM  
Lakeville Public Library  
Large Meeting Room  
4 Precinct St, Lakeville, MA**

**SOUTHEAST  
REGIONAL MEETING**



Join MASS - Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong and self-advocates living in the Southeast area on the first Thursday of each month for an in-person get-together. The Southeast Facilitator and MASS Board Member, Al Milne, and MASS Board President and Southeast Officer, Ashley Quick, look forward to meeting new folks at the April event.

Their mission at MASS is to empower self-advocates through education so they make choices that improve and enrich their lives.

If you are planning to attend this meeting, or would like more information, please email Coral Friesner and Al Milne at [info@WeAreMASS.org](mailto:info@WeAreMASS.org). You can also call and leave a message on their main office line at 857-360-0134 and someone from their team will get back to you soon.

**Want to receive emails from MASS? Sign up here!**



# DESE DDS Program



**DEADLINE**

Mon.  
3/31/25

The DESE DDS Residential Prevention Program facilitates transitions from school life to more independent life within the community for students receiving publicly funded special education services who also meet DDS eligibility criteria for services.

[DESE/DDS Program Open Interest Period 2025 →](#)

[DESE/DDS Frequently Asked Questions →](#)



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of  
Developmental Services



MASSACHUSETTS  
Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) have partnered to create a program of wraparound services for students ages 6-21. The primary goal is to help prevent a more restrictive educational or out-of-home residential placement. The Residential Prevention Program does this by creating an individualized plan of supports for the participant that promotes skill building, independence, and social integration across multiple settings including the participant's home, school, and community.

There is no “wait list” for the DESE/DDS Program. A family who expresses interest remains on the open interest list until they are assessed and found to qualify or not; or until a new open interest period is announced. Families who continue to be interested will need to complete a new open interest form to continue to be considered. The DESE/DDS Program serves approximately 800 students ages 6-21 at any given time. Participants leave the program for a variety of reasons at a variety of times, so there is no way to know how many openings will happen each year or when your student may be assessed for eligibility.



What a great afternoon everyone had at the Winter Celebration!

