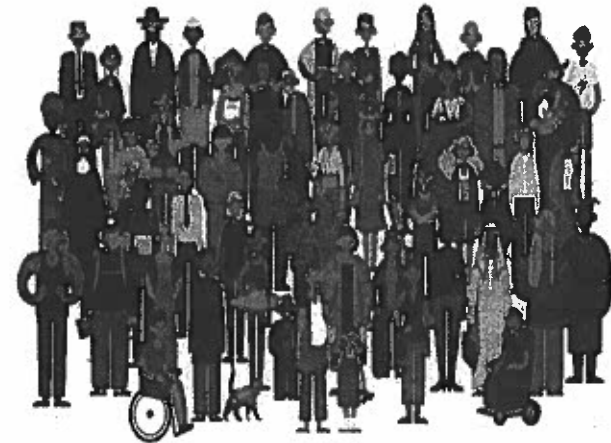


Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)

The Springfield Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) to Special Education serves as a parental advisory to the district on issues that pertain to the education and safety of children with disabilities. The Parent Advisory Council shall meet regularly with the district to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the district's special education programs. The Parent Advisory Council may also provide parents with resources and trainings to further their ability to participate in the planning of their child's educational program. Parents may obtain information about the Parent Advisory Council through the Evaluation Team Leader (ETL) at their child's school.

Parents can also reach out to the Special Education Department at Central Office at 787-7100.

Springfield Public Schools Parents' Advisory Council SEPAC



**"Every student can learn, just not in the
same way or on the same day."
George Evans**

What is a SEPAC?

Massachusetts Special Education Law, Chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General Laws, requires a school district to establish a Special Education Parents' Advisory Council (SEPAC). A SEPAC is a voluntary parental advisory group that acts as a resource for parents, communicating with the district on matters related to the support of students with special needs and disabilities, ages 3-22. Anyone who is interested may join, however, parents of students who are on an IEP or 504 Plan often benefit the most.

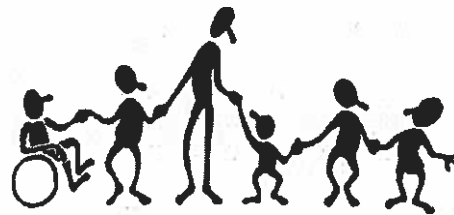


How Can a SEPAC Benefit Parents?

A Springfield Public School SEPAC can offer a network of supportive parents whose students have similar concerns, needs, and experiences. SEPAC members can provide meaningful information and support to help parents navigate the 504 and IEP process and feel positive about their student's education.

SEPAC Can Provide:

- Parental support and networking
- Educational workshops and training, including an annual training on special education rights and regulations
- A mechanism to bring questions, concerns, and suggestions to school administration
- Promote ongoing communication and programs within the community that foster tolerance and inclusion of all students and their unique needs



SEPAC Activities Include:

- Crafting a Mission statement
- Generating by-laws
- Creating sound methods for selection of officers
- Drafting duties and terms of the officers
- Defining how meetings will be conducted (by Robert's Rules of Order, for example)
- Establishing budgetary and financial rules and responsibilities
- Setting rules for raising SEPAC funds to use for SEPAC activities
- Scheduling how often and where the SEPAC will meet
- Setting and posting the meeting agendas
- Developing a system of outreach and communication to parents of students with special needs

IEP	Assessment	FAPE
Accommodations	Special	Transition
603CMR	Education	IDEA
	504	Disabilities LRE
FBA	BIP	Progress