

About the Dedham SEPAC

The Dedham SEPAC is a volunteer group of parents/guardians who care about special education. We gather to share the experiences we need to become empowered participants in our children's education. Our combined voices help make sure that parents' priorities are front and center on our school district's agenda.

SEPAC Activities

SEPAC activities include:

- Meetings with invited speakers and special education administrators and central office staff.
- Assist in fostering special education programs and extra-curricular activities for students with special needs.
- Assist in providing families and parents of students with special needs with information regarding special education programs and extra curricular activities, as well as a forum to discuss items regarding special education.

SEPAC Charter

State law mandates the existence of a Parent Advisory Council in every school district. Our duties under the law include, "advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs".

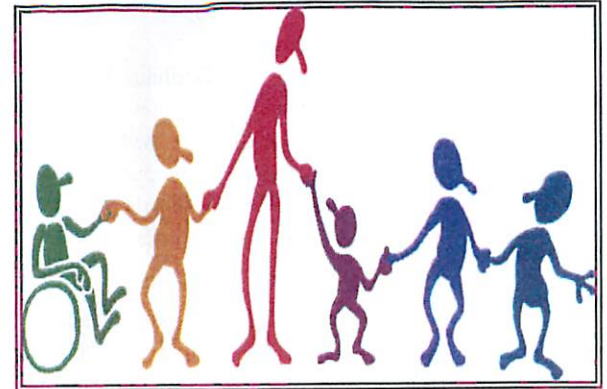
DEDHAM SEPAC GOALS

- Provide regular opportunities for meaningful dialogue between parents/guardians and our school system.
- Work in partnership with school administrators to plan, develop, evaluate and improve special education programs and their delivery.
- Provide opportunities for parents/guardians and school personnel to participate in professional development and in-service training.
- Offer outreach and support to members of the community.
- Provide education on the rights of students under special education law and on how to develop effective educational plans.
- Keep current with legislative actions and inform our members and the wider community.



The Dedham Special Education Parent Advisory Council

(SEPAC)



Contact information

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*Providing families with individual
support and a collective voice in
Special Education*

WELCOME

DEDHAM SEPAC INFORMATION

If you are not familiar with the Dedham SEPAC, would you like to connect with other Dedham parents/guardians who have children with special needs? Do you have questions about our schools, programs or activities in the area? Would you like to learn more about upcoming conferences and events related to special education?

If so, please consider joining us—the Dedham Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Dedham SEPAC). We are a tremendous networking resource for parents, friends, guardians and others interested in special education. We have regular meetings and sponsor educational events pertaining to special education related topics throughout the year.

Participating in the Dedham SEPAC is a great way to meet other families and stay abreast of what is going on in our school district as it relates to special education, as well as current SEPAC activities and community opportunities and resources.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Children come with different styles, different smiles and different needs. Some of our children have special educational needs that parents/guardians and educators together strive to achieve. We need information to make informed choices, a voice to make our perspective heard, and the support of others who understand our challenges.

Children with special needs are all unique. Some may have physical or cognitive challenges ranging from limited mobility, impaired hearing or vision or speech and language challenges, sensory issues, or social and emotional difficulties. Some may have attentional, academic and/or executive functioning challenges.

That said, all children have one thing in common. They need full access to the educational opportunities available in our communities. They are guaranteed this access by law. The Dedham SEPAC can help parents/guardians ensure that all children in our school district have the tools they need to be successful.

The Dedham SEPAC's Mission

The Dedham SEPAC works to ensure understanding, respect, support and the appropriate education of all children in our community.

We strive to:

- Support an innovative educational environment where children with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities.
- Build a network for parents/guardians of children with special needs for sharing information and discussing matters of interest.
- Maintain a dialogue with the community to encourage understanding, respect, acceptance and inclusion of children with special needs.
- Promote and enhance communication between parents/guardians and school administrators and staff.

Meeting and Activity Announcements

Information regarding SEPAC activities, including times and locations are sent by each individual school.

Other Online Resources

The Federation for Children with Special Needs (FSN): <http://www.fcsn.org>
DESE Website: <http://doe.mass.edu/sped>
Wrightslaw: <http://www.wrightslaw.com>

