

Your Rights Under Federal and State Law Include the Right to:

- Request and receive a free evaluation by the public school if you think your child has a problem that affects progress in school. Assessment can be done in all areas of concern including vision, hearing, language, motor skills and social/emotional/behavior issues.
- Have your child evaluated for the potential to benefit from assistive technology.
- Obtain an independent evaluation by an approved provider should you not agree with the school's findings.
- Approve or decline all evaluations that are proposed for your child.
- Request and receive copies of all evaluations two school days before a Team meeting.
- Attend and participate in all Team meetings, including where the IEP is developed.
- Participate in transition planning for your child beginning the year he/she turns 14.
- Bring a friend, professional, advocate, or attorney to all meetings.
- Receive a clear explanation of evaluation summaries.
- Meet whenever necessary with any school staff working with your child and reconvene the Team at any time.
- Reject part or all of the IEP, including parts that are missing.
- Review and inspect your child's record.
- Participate in the decision to remove your child's IEP or 504 Plan.
- Mediation to resolve differences with the school district regarding services for your child.

Please call the ELL program office at 617-559-6043 if you need this document translated.

The NewtonSEPAC welcomes all families, and we are happy to work with a translator to assist you.

Родительский консультативный совет Ньютона приветствует все семьи, и мы рады работать с переводчиком, чтобы помочь вам.

O Newton SEPAC (Conselho de Assessoria aos Pais) dá as boas-vindas a todas as famílias e nós ficamos felizes em trabalhar com um tradutor para ajudá-las.

NewtonSEPAC歡迎所有家庭，及我們很高興跟翻譯員合作來幫助你。

El NewtonSEPAC da la bienvenida a todas las familias, y sería un placer trabajar con un traductor para ayudarle.

You Are Your Child's Best Advocate

Do You Have Questions About Special Education in Newton?

The Newton Parent Advisory Council for Special Education (NewtonSEPAC) Can Help!

Supporting Parents, Advocating for Children



www.newtonpac.org

Who Can Benefit from Special Education Services?

Every child has unique strengths and needs. Some children have obvious challenges: a visual, hearing, or motor impairment. Others have “hidden” disabilities, such as specific learning disabilities, autism, sensory processing problems, or difficulty regulating emotions and behavior.

There are many types of special needs and many ways to support students with them. The goal of education is to enable *all* children to progress in school according to their potential. State law states that all children should make “documented growth” in acquiring skills, including social/emotional development. Some of the support services the school can provide include: special curricula; physical, occupational, or speech therapy; a classroom aide; assistive technology; transportation; or placement in a specialized program or school.

What is NewtonSEPAC?

NewtonSEPAC advises the Newton School Committee about special education, and provides information, support and community connection for Newton families whose children receive special education services. We are an all-volunteer group that welcomes everyone to our meetings and provides an online listserve to parents for questions, support and referrals.

How Can NewtonSEPAC Help Me?

When a child struggles in school, parents may feel frustrated, helpless, angry, sad, and alone. NewtonSEPAC welcomes you into a network of supportive parents who have “been there.”

NewtonSEPAC members provide information and support to help other parents feel empowered and optimistic about their child’s education. We offer:

- Parent-to-parent support and networking
- Educational forums and workshops
- Online discussion group
- An avenue to bring concerns to the school administration.

Please Join Us!

Membership is free and open to all.

Visit our web site

www.newtonpac.org

or contact us at

info@newtonpac.org.

Resources

- **Federation for Children with Special Needs** www.fcsn.org
617-236-7210
Information Center with answers to special education questions
1-800-331-0688
- **Parent’s Guide to Special Education** (written by the FCSN and the Mass. Dept. of Education) is available at:
http://www.fcsn.org/parents_guide/pgenglish.pdf
- **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** 617-357-8431
www.massadvocates.org
Great resource for information on special education rights and laws
- **Asperger/Autism Network**
www.aane.org
617-393-3824
- **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**
www.doe.mass.edu
781-338-3000
- **Network of Newton Autism Parents (NoNAP)**
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NoNAP/info>
- **Project INTERFACE:** Mental health helpline and information
HELPLINE 888-244-6843
www.projectinterface.org
- **Wrightslaw** www.wrightslaw.com