

Do you have questions about special education?

Do you think your child might qualify for an IEP or 504 Plan?



We are here to help!

## What is the Newton SEPAC?

An all volunteer group that advocates for children in Newton who have, or might qualify for, an IEP or 504 Plan, and assists families with information, support and community connection.

## What does the Newton SEPAC do?

- Advocates for the 2000+ students receiving special education services in Newton
- Advises the Newton School Committee
- Communicates with the NPS Administration to share information and advocate for change
- Provides family-to-family support and networking
- Hosts presentations for families and NPS staff
- Hosts an online listserv and facebook group to connect families
- Meets regularly to connect
- WELCOMES EVERYONE

## Who might be eligible for services?

Any student who does not have equal access to, or the ability to benefit from, their classroom environment and curricula due to a difference or disability. Even if the student's disability(ies) have not yet been identified, the student may qualify if they are encountering barriers in their education or school experience (or such barriers are anticipated). Disability can result from any range of differences or challenges, including neurological differences, vision or hearing impairments/loss, motor difficulties, or any aspect of a child's functioning that is not sufficiently understood and/or accommodated or supported.



## Special Education Parent Advisory Council

"Inclusion is not bringing people into what already exists, it is making a new space, a better space for everyone."

Rachel Olivero

## What support services can schools provide?

- accessible curricula
- supports to improve learning environments
- physical therapy
- occupational therapy
- speech therapy
- a classroom aide
- assistive technology
- transportation
- placement in a specialized program or school
- and others



Membership is FREE and open to all!

Under federal and state law you have the right to request and receive a free evaluation by your public school if you think your child might be eligible for additional accommodations or services at school

## Under federal and state law you have the right to:

- Request and receive assessments in a range of areas, including related to the student's vision, hearing, language, motor skills, behavior, and social/emotional well-being
- Have your child evaluated for the potential to benefit from assistive technology
- Obtain an independent evaluation by an approved provider
- Approve or decline any evaluations that are proposed for your child
- Request and receive copies of all evaluations 2 days before a team meeting
- Attend and participate in all team meetings including when a plan is developed
- Participate in transition planning beginning the year your child turns 14
- Bring a friend, professional, advocate, or attorney to all meetings
- Receive a clear explanation of evaluation summaries
- Meet as needed with any school staff member working with your child and reconvene the team at any time
- Reject all or part of a formal plan, including parts that are missing
- Review and inspect your child's record
- Participate in the decision to remove a formal plan
- Receive mediation to resolve differences with the school district regarding services for your child

## Resources

### Federation for Children with Special Needs

[www.fcsn.org](http://www.fcsn.org)  
617-236-7210

Information Center: 800-331-0688

### MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)  
781-338-3000

### Parent's Guide to Special Education

[www.fcsn.org/parents\\_guide/pgenglish.pdf](http://www.fcsn.org/parents_guide/pgenglish.pdf)

### MA Advocates for Children

[www.massadvocates.org](http://www.massadvocates.org)  
617-357-8431

### Project Interface Mental Health Helpline and Information

[www.projectinterface.org](http://www.projectinterface.org)  
888-244-6843



## Connect

### Email

[info@newtonsepac.org](mailto:info@newtonsepac.org)

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newtonsepac>

### Listserv

<https://groups.google.com/g/newton-sepac>

[www.newtonsepac.org](http://www.newtonsepac.org)



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

El Newton SEPAC (Consejo Asesor de Padres de Educación Especial) da la bienvenida a todas las familias y estamos felices de trabajar con un traductor para ayudarlo.

Newton SEPAC (Консультативный совет для родителей по специальному образованию) приветствует все семьи, и мы рады работать с переводчиком, который поможет вам.

Newton SEPAC (特殊教育家长咨询委员会) 欢迎所有家庭, 我们很高兴与翻译合作为您提供帮助。