

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



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

Rachel Olivero

Connect

Membership is FREE
and open to all!

Email

info@newtonsepac.org

Facebook

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

Listserv

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/newton-sepac>

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。

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!



Special Education
Parent Advisory Council

Who might be eligible for services?

Any student who does not have equal access to, or 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.

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

What support services can schools provide?

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



Federation for Children with Special Needs

www.fcsn.org
617-236-7210
Information Center: 800-331-0688

MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

www.doe.mass.edu
781-338-3000

Parent's Guide to Special Education

www.fcsn.org/parents_guide/pgenglish.pdf

MA Advocates for Children

www.massadvocates.org
617-357-8431

Project Interface Mental Health Helpline and Information

www.projectinterface.org
888-244-6843

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