



Mission Statement

Westwood SEPAC

(Special Education Parent Advisory Council)
is an independent advocacy group with the mission to work for the understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with disabilities in our community.

Objectives

1. Provide opportunities for partnership and communication among parents, school personnel and the other interested parties in special education.
2. Bring families and community members together.
3. Provide resources related to families' needs and interests.

SEPAC
Westwood Special Education Parent
Advisory Council
c/o Student Services
220 Nahatan Street
Westwood, MA 02090

To learn more about our organization, go to
www.westwoodsepac.org

Acknowledgments

Westwood SEPAC would like to thank the following for their kind and generous help with this brochure:

- Martina Lombard, *Westwood SEPAC parent*
- Rita Lombard, *Westwood SEPAC member*
 - Eddie Germano, *Illustrator*
- Audrey Seyffert, *Director of Student Services,*
Westwood Public Schools
- Anne Berry-Goodfellow, *Chairman,*
Westwood Commission on Disability
- Brendan Gearty, *Owner,* and all the staff at
Norwood Printing Center, Inc.

Benefits

1. Access a wealth of information from community, state, and federal organizations.
2. Understand the difference between IEPs (Individualized Education Program) and 504 accommodations.
3. Learn to navigate the special education maze.
4. Learn to advocate and network.
5. Participate in workshops and events.
6. Understand the rights of students and their parents/guardians.
7. Work with your SEPAC school liaison.
8. Vote on matters pertaining to the education, programming, and safety of students with disabilities. (See membership form on back for voting eligibility.)

Membership

Membership is open to all parents, guardians, educators, and other interested parties. In order to join, each academic year, a membership form must be completed. No dues are required but donations are welcome.

Meetings

There are four to eight meetings during the academic year. Meetings take place from 7-9pm in the Professional Development Room of the Westwood High School Administration Building at 220 Nahatan Street, Westwood. Meetings may include but are not limited to invited speakers, "Basic Rights" workshop, and SEPAC resources and information.

What is Special Education?

This term refers to services provided beyond the regular classroom curriculum. Students may have one or several disabilities in the following areas: health, physical, developmental delay, sensory (hearing, vision, deaf-blind), intellectual, neurological, emotional, autism, speech and communication or specific learning issues. Disabilities must impact the student's ability to make effective progress in school and require specifically designed instruction or related services in order to access the general curriculum.*

What is a PAC?

Under the Code of Massachusetts Regulations 603 CMR 28:07 (4) each school district is required to have a Special Education Parent Advisory Council. It is a district-wide organization of parents/guardians, teachers, administrators, and other interested parties working in partnership to provide an appropriate public education to all children with disabilities. The parent advisory council duties include but are not limited to: advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.

Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Membership Form*

Westwood SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) is an independent advocacy group with the mission to work for the understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with disabilities in our community.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(please check one)
Parent/Guardian _____ Educator _____ Other _____

May we e-mail you meeting updates, etc? Yes / No

Student's grade: _____ Student's age: _____

Name of school attending: _____

Disability (optional): _____

- Westwood SEPAC encourages all interested parties to become members. Please be aware that voting privileges are limited to parents/guardians of students on IEPs and 504 Plans.
- Membership must be renewed each academic year.
- No dues are required but donations are welcome.

Please return this form to:

SEPAC
Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council
c/o Student Services
220 Nahatan Street
Westwood, MA 02090