



Barnstable Public Schools

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Massachusetts Special Education Law (Section 3 of Chapter 71B) requires every school district to have a SEPAC. This council is charged with:

*"...The parent advisory council duties shall include but not be limited to: advising the school committee on matters that pertain to the education and safety of student with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to **participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of school committee's special education programs.** ..."*

August 10, 2015

Welcome to the new school year! We are excited to be part of an organization focused on improving special education in the district.

This is an important year for SEPAC as we improve our communication with the district's administrators and the School Committee. **We need your participation.** The mid-cycle review for Barnstable Public Schools was recently released and the Department of Education is requesting that SEPAC improve its participation **"... in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs, or advise the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities."**

We have changed the meeting format to encourage more participation:

- The first part of the meeting will be for SEPAC business—hearing your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions as to how special education can be improved or to communicate what is working.
- Special presentations will follow the meeting.
- Parents are always welcome to stay after the presentation if you need more time to talk.

Child care, pizza and drinks will be available as we have done in the past.

Please visit the website regularly www.barnstablesepac.com or check our Facebook page for updates. Email us any topics you would like to have on the agenda at barnsepac@gmail.com — your suggestions will help us improve SEPAC so that you find it a worthwhile organization.

Who can belong? Everyone is welcome! Membership is encouraged for all parents of children who receive services and for others who are interested in special education. This includes not only children on IEPs, but also children on 504s, and parents who think their children may need services.

Monthly Meetings! The meeting schedule is on the back of this letter. Please mark your calendars and remember to include the location (meeting days and locations rotate to reach more people).

This is YOUR parent advisory council. We all need to be involved to help improve special education services in Barnstable Public Schools.

We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting on Monday, September 21 from 5:45-7:45 p.m.

Respectfully,

Jeannie Randall, President and *Kathy Bent*, Vice President