What is SEPAC?

Since 1986, Massachusetts state law requires all public school districts to have a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).

All families with a child on an IEP or with a 504 plan are members of SEPAC.

SEPAC ensures all children have equal access to educational opportunities, and that schools are safe, nurturing, challenging learning environments.

The Westfield SEPAC’s mission is to advocate for children with disabilities and their families by participating in the planning, development, and evaluation of special education programs.

SEPAC coordinates monthly meetings to educate and support parents, caregivers, and educators.

SEPAC meetings are the first Thursday of every month in the library of South Middle School (30 West Silver St.) from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Meetings range from workshops to roundtables to our annual awards ceremony.

6:30 - 6:45 SEPAC information

6:45- 8:00 Speaker/workshop

8:00 -8:30 Friends of SEPAC talk together

Refreshments and childcare are always provided.

2016-17 SEPAC Calendar

- 9/8 SEPAC Fall Kick-off: A New Vision!
- 10/6 Special Services Round Robin Event
- 11/3 Decoding Dyslexia: Nancy Duggan
- 12/1 Happy Holidays and Mental Health
- 1/5 Effective Communication
- 2/2 Basic Rights and Section 504
- 3/2 Tiered Instruction
- 4/6 Autism Fair
- 5/4 2017 Shining Star Awards
- 6/1 End of Year Celebration
Who should I contact if I have a question or concern about my child’s education?

Please always start with the **classroom teacher or therapist**. Consider whether your child’s general education teacher (for questions about tests, classroom accommodations, homework etc.) or special education teacher (for questions about progress on goals, modified assignments, etc.) or therapist (for questions about speech, occupational therapy, etc.) is the best starting point.

Find your **special education liaison** in your school’s “Navigating Special Education” brochure. Brochures are online at: http://bit.do/westfieldsepac

**Special Education Supervisors**

- **Paper Mill/Highland**
  - Anna Guerriero-Gagnon
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- **Munger Hill/Southampton Road**
  - Karoline Kells
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- **Abner Gibbs/South Middle**
  - Elizabeth Phillpott
  - e.phillpott@schoolsofwestfield.org

- **Russell/North Middle**
  - Lynda Pierce
  - l.pierce@schoolsofwestfield.org

- **Franklin Ave/Westfield High School**
  - Cheryl Hollocher
  - c.hollocher@schoolsofwestfield.org

- **Westfield Technical Academy/Transition Program**
  - Darlene Fernandez
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**Special Services Program Coordinator**

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(K-12 only; updated Aug. 2016)