

Disability Types in the State of Massachusetts Special Education Regulations are:

- Autism
- Developmental Delay
- Intellectual Impairment
- Sensory Impairment: Hearing/Vision/Deaf-Blind
- Neurological Impairment
- Emotional Impairment
- Communication Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Health Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability

Check out our website or come to a meeting and find out how SSEPAC can help you! SSEPAC is a great source for networking, support, and information to help your child participate to the fullest in school and the community!

SSEPAC is a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible.

What is Special Education? An IEP? Section 504?

Special Education is specially designed instruction and related services that meet the unique needs of an eligible student with a disability or a specific service need that is necessary to allow the student with a disability to access the general curriculum.

An IEP (Individualized Education Program) is a contract between you and the school. It represents a formal agreement about the services that the school will provide for your child's special education needs.

The federal law IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) states that students with disabilities should participate in the "general curriculum." The IEP designs the services that the student needs to enable them to make progress in the general curriculum and to help them be successful in the life of the school.

Some students with disabilities are able to succeed in school without special education but require some kind of supportive service or accommodation. A law known as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 offers students with disabilities both service and accommodations that are necessary for the student to participate fully in the life of the school.

To receive services under section 504, a student must have a mental or physical impairment that substantially impairs a major life activity and requires special accommodations.

SSEPAC

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Sharon Special Education Parent Advisory Council

Mission Statement

To promote understanding, respect, acceptance, and inclusion of children with special needs and disabilities within our school system and community

"Having an active and supportive SSEPAC is essential because it provides me a feedback system from an important constituency. Collaborating with parents is vital for the success of special education programs in our district."

Steven K. Kaplan, MS
Director of Student Services
Sharon Public Schools

What is a Parent Advisory Council (PAC)?

The purpose of a Parent Advisory Council is to allow parents the opportunity to protect access to an appropriate education for all children, especially those with disabilities. The PAC participates in making decisions affecting policies, rules and regulations through its reporting to the Director of Student Services, the Superintendent and the School Committee, thereby seeking enactment of policies and practices that protect every student. Also, the PAC educates, promotes awareness, and shares timely information with members, parents, the school district, and the community at large. Parent Advisory Councils are a requirement of the Department of Education.

Ways to participate:

Visit the website:
www.SSEPAC.org

Join the listserv:
ssepac-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Come to a meeting:
Meetings are held the second
Thursday of each month.

PAC Benefits:

- **Website and listserv** – provide access to information regarding laws, regulations, and emotional support. (www.SSEPAC.org)
- **Interfacing with the Director of Student Services and the School Committee** – voice your opinions on important issues.
- **Workshops** – provide new information through various speakers discussing special education topics and parenting issues.
- **Resource Library** – promote education through several hundred books, videos, journals and periodicals located in the Sharon High School library.
- **Monthly Meetings** – support and networking for parents; opportunities to share thoughts and ideas; current information about happenings in our community, state, and public policy; information on advocating more effectively for your child and understanding the system.
- **Newsletters** – stay informed of new events and policies.
- **Connect with the community to help all children and their families in the town of Sharon!**

2010-11 Officers:

Co-President: Marcy Kaplan
Co-President: April Lomba
Vice President: Katy Currul-Dykeman
Treasurer: Rhonda Jansky
Secretaries: Richard Godmintz
Mary Buzzell

2010-11 School Liaisons:

High School: Sue Linehan
Middle School: Jana Korn
Cottage: April Lomba
East: Sue Linehan
Judy Crosby
Heights: Marcy Kaplan
Katy Currul-Dykeman
Children's Center: Kristen Camilli