
AB SEPAC Goals

- Provide regular opportunities for meaningful dialogue between parents/guardians and our district
- Work in partnership with school administrators to plan, develop, evaluate, and improve special education programs and their delivery
- Provide opportunities for parents/guardians and school personnel to participate in professional development
- Participate in the special education budget process
- Perform outreach to the community
- Establish a support network for parents/guardians of children with disabilities
- Provide education on the rights of students and parents/guardians under special education law and on how to develop effective educational programs
- Keep current with legislative actions and inform our members and the wider community

For more information, contact
abrsdsepac@gmail.com

 Like or follow us @absepac

Email Lists

1. **General List** – This list distributes workshop, conference, and other general event announcements to parents/guardians, educators, and school administrators.
2. **Parent-to-Parent List** – This list provides the same general announcements to families plus a parent-to-parent only discussion forum for the exchange of information in a safe, supportive environment.

To join one of our email lists, view our Calendar of Events, or learn more about the organization, visit absepac.org or email abrsdsepac@gmail.com.

Friends of 501(c)(3)

The Friends of AB SEPAC is a 501(c)(3) organization to raise funds in support of the SEPAC's goals and objectives. Donations to this organization are tax deductible. We encourage you to join so you can help determine how funds are spent in support of families and children each year.

Other Resources

Federation for Children with Special Needs

<http://www.fcsn.org>

MA DESE

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped>

Wrightslaw

<http://www.wrightslaw.com>

Mass Advocates for Children

<http://www.massadvocates.org>

Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council

AB SEPAC

Giving families
individual support
and a collective voice
in special education

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Special Education

Children with special needs are all unique. Some may have limited mobility, hearing or visual impairment, speech and language issues, sensory issues, cognitive challenges, attention or executive functioning deficits, or social and emotional difficulties. Some may have problems with math, reading, or writing. Some may have a combination of these.

All children have one thing in common, however. They need full access to the educational opportunities available in our communities. They are guaranteed this access by law. The Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council can help parents and guardians ensure that all children in our school district have the tools they need to be successful.

About the AB SEPAC

We are parent volunteers who care about special education. We gather to share the experience we need to become empowered participants in our children's education. Our combined voices help make sure that parents' and guardians' priorities stay on the school district's agenda.

Any interested individuals, whether their children have special needs or not, are welcome to join the AB SEPAC and participate in any of our sponsored activities and events.

AB SEPAC Activities

- Meetings with invited speakers, special education administrators, and school committee members
- Providing parent support
- Attending state and regional workshops and conferences on disability and education to bring resources back to the district
- Disseminating informational materials and expanding our website to help parents/guardians stay informed and educated
- Social events to allow families to gather informally and make connections in the community

Our Charter

State law mandates the existence of a Special Education Parent Advisory Council in every school district. Our duties under the law include *"advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with disabilities and meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district's special education programs."*

To this end, a group of SEPAC parents meets monthly with special education administrators to discuss programs, budgets, and other issues of importance, then reports back to the full SEPAC for discussion. SEPAC representatives attend school committee meetings and PTO meetings in the district. These representatives also act as liaisons for families at each school.

The AB SEPAC's Mission

The Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council works to ensure understanding, respect, support, and the appropriate education of all children in our community. We strive to:

- Promote and support an innovative educational environment wherein children with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities, encouraging all students to realize their full potential
- Build a network for parents/guardians of children with disabilities and provide a forum for sharing information and discussing matters of interest and concern regarding our children
- Maintain a dialogue with the community to encourage understanding, respect, acceptance, and inclusion of children with disabilities
- Collaborate with the school community to continually improve resources and educational outcomes for children with disabilities
- Promote and enhance communication between parents/guardians and school administrators

*"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."
—Helen Keller*

