

## Mission:

The Weston Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Weston SEPAC) is an all parent volunteer group that promotes a network for parents of children with disabilities to provide a forum to share information, support, provide resources and discuss important issues. We provide educational presentations for parents and teachers of both special needs and typical students. We meet with school administration and school committee members to give our input on policies and programs that impact our children. We promote and raise awareness of children with special needs. We meet with our state representative to share and discuss information to advocate for children with disabilities.



### SEPAC BOARD 2019-2020

#### Co-Chairs

Lisa Lappi  
Kathy Davidoff

#### Secretary

Alyson Muzila

#### Treasurer

Becky Dempsey

#### Member at Large

Maija Cirulis-Gooch

#### School Committee Liaison

TBD

#### School Liaisons:

High School: Kathy Davidoff  
Middle School: Becky Dempsey  
Field School: Lisa Lappi  
Country School: Alyson Muzila &  
Mija Cirulis-Gooch  
Woodland School: Open  
METCO: Open

#### Weston Food Allergy Community Liaisons:

Dana Christensen  
Vicki Gifford  
Kim Smallman

#### DISTRICT CONTACTS

#### Director of Student Services

Jennifer Truslow  
truslowj@weston.org

#### Assistant Director of Student Services

Anne Zernicke  
zernickea@weston.org

#### WESTON SEPAC

Weston, MA 02493

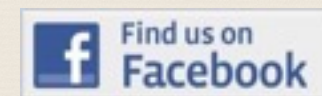
[WWW.WestonSEPAC.org](http://WWW.WestonSEPAC.org)

# WESTON SEPAC



website:

[WWW.WESTONSEPAC.ORG](http://WWW.WESTONSEPAC.ORG)



EDUCATE, INFORM,  
COLLABORATE AND  
EMPOWER PARENTS!

# WESTON SEPAC

## What is a SEPAC?

Commonwealth of MA regulations 603 CMR 28.07(4) requires that a Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is created in each district. We meet regularly with District administrators and School Committee members to participate in planning, development and evaluation of the District's special education programs.



## How can SEPAC Help Me?

When a child struggles in school, parents may feel frustrated, helpless, angry, sad, and alone. Weston SEPAC welcomes you into a network of supportive parents who have had similar experiences. SEPAC members provide information and support to help other parents feel empowered and optimistic about their child's education. We offer:

- Parent-to-parent support and networking
- Educational forums and workshops
- An avenue to bring questions and suggestions to school administration
- Promote communication and programs within the community that encourage understanding, acceptance and inclusion of all children

## What is Special Education

Special education is a range of services that can be provided in different ways and different settings, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of a student with disabilities. The services and supports one child receives may be very different from what another child receives. It's all about individualization. Special education may provide students with accommodations, specialized instruction and/or related services that they require to make effective progress in school.

## Who qualifies for Special Education under IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal law that defines and regulates special education. The law requires public schools to provide special education services to children ages 3 to 21 who meet certain criteria. (Children younger than 3 can get help through IDEA's early intervention services). Students determined eligible for special education services must meet all (3) three of the following criteria:

- 1) The student has a documented disability that is covered by IDEA
- 2) The student is not making effective progress
- 3) The student requires specifically designed instruction, or related services, to make effective progress

## Eligibility Under Section 504

Children with disabilities may be eligible for special education and related services under Section 504. That's because Section 504's definition of disability is broader than the IDEA's definition. To be protected under Section 504, a student must be determined to:

- have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; or
- have a record of such an impairment; or
- be regarded as having such an impairment.

source: [understood.org](http://understood.org)



## Weston SEPAC exists so you can:

- **RECIEVE** information
- **LEARN** about available resources, services and programs
- **SHARE** concerns
- **MAKE** suggestions
- **FEEL** supported
- **CREATE** a network