

SEPAC Contact Information

2016-2017 Academic Year
Chairs – Lisa Brady/Jessica Collins
Secretary– Carolyn Hart

Email:
haverhillsepac@gmail.com

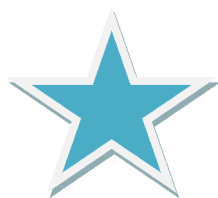
Website:
<http://www.haverhill-ps.org/sepac/>

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/haverhillsepac/>

Meetings

Our meetings are held on Wednesdays at the Haverhill High School Library, 137 Monument Street. We begin at 5:30 p.m. to socialize a bit; programs start at 6:00 p.m.

September 21
October 19*
November 16
December 14
January 18
February 15
March 15
April 12
May 17



**This meeting will be held in the conference room across from the main office.*

Parent Resources

Federation for Children with Special Needs
617-236-7210/800-331-0688

www.fcsn.org

Massachusetts Advocacy Center
617-357-8431

www.advocacyservices.org/mass-advocacy-center

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
781-338-3000

www.doe.mass.edu/sped

Donna Feinberg (PRSD contact)
781-338-3731

Special Education Law and Advocacy
www.wrightslaw.com

Northeast ARC
978-762-4878

www.ne-arc.org

The Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport
978-373-0552
www.thearcofghn.org

Haverhill Public School
Special Education Department
4 Summer Street
Haverhill, MA 01830
978-374-3435

Kyle Riley,
Director of Special Education
kyle.riley@haverhill-ps.org

Pam MacDonald
Compliance Officer
pam.macdonald@haverhill-ps.org

Haverhill SEPAC



Haverhill Parent
Advisory Council on Special
Education (SEPAC)
Chapter 71B

We are a volunteer group of parents, guardians and caregivers of students with special educational needs. Our mission is to provide support, information, and access to community and educational resources, and to ensure that school administrators and officials remain responsive to the needs of our students.

Why become a SEPAC member?

SEPAC members gain insight, knowledge and strength from one another. SEPAC members have found that they work together to find solutions. SEPAC members are able to make a difference in the quality of their children's education!

Who should be involved?

- Parents of a child who receives special education services
- Parents who think their child may have learning issues or differences, behavioral, attention, or social/emotional issues
- Parents who are just learning about the special education process (IEP and 504 plans)
- Parents who would like to network and expand their advocacy skills
- Parents who want to help other parents by sharing what they have learned from past experience
- Parents, community members and educators who want to learn about special education procedures and resources

What happens at SEPAC monthly meetings?

Monthly meetings are available for the benefit of all. These may include discussing your concerns with other parents and school administrators, learning from guest speakers on topics of interest to the group, and participating in workshops with community professionals. These are public meetings organized and hosted by parent volunteers; all are welcome.

To protect the privacy of our students and their families, members of the Special Education Department will be available following the meetings for individual discussion of specific situations and concerns, and to schedule time for continued discussion.

For up-to-date information on meeting dates, times, and locations and to sign up for our e-mails, visit us on the Web:

www.haverhill-ps.org/sepac

What is Chapter 71B?

The Massachusetts special education law, Chapter 71B of the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71B (also known as Chapter 766) is a comprehensive education law implemented in Massachusetts in 1972.

This law ensures that children in need of special education, ages 3-22, have a free and appropriate education provided by the local community, to allow them the same chance of success as their classmates.

School districts are required to establish a SEPAC, which acts in both an advisory and a participatory role: *The school committee of any city, town, or school district shall establish a parent advisory council on special education. Membership shall be offered to all parents of children with disabilities and other interested parties. 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 students with disabilities; meeting regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school committee's special education program.*