



2018-2019 AB SEPAC Goals

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – FALL 2018

Our Mission

*To ensure understanding, respect, support,
and the appropriate education of all children in our community.*

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council's duties under state 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.”

- Provide a network for parents and a forum for sharing and discussing interests and concerns
- Maintain dialogue with the broader community
- Collaborate with the school community to improve student outcomes
- Promote and enhance communication between families and administrators

2018-2019 Goals & Priorities

- Improve SEPAC outreach with an emphasis on increasing engagement with and participation from diverse families
- Follow up on issues identified in previous survey findings, particularly communication between families and the district – survey, workshop
- Examine existing programming for students with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) and provide feedback from families – focus group, report, potential workshop
- Conduct and publish annual MCAS analysis
- Continue with website and *Special Education Handbook* revisions following organization name change, ongoing program development
- Community education through presentations about Basic Rights, improving communication, schoolwide and Individualized Education Program (IEP) bullying prevention strategies

Outreach & Engagement

- Presence at back to school nights and community events to increase visibility and reduce stigma
- Continue monthly parenting support and coffee/tea hours
- Survey and focus group planned
- Regional SEPAC partnerships
- Working with Student Services to ensure continued newsletter subscriptions
- *Hosting 1-2 family social events*



Why Survey?

- New initiatives, programs, and/or expansions in the past year at all levels from Early Childhood through high school
- New staff districtwide, including IEP team leaders at the elementary level
- Issues reported with transition to accessing IEP progress reports electronically via PowerSchool Special Education software and the Parent Portal
- Follow up on issues and subgroups highlighted in 2017 parent/guardian mini survey and 2015 survey results and open-ended responses
 - Increasing and improving IEP team communication
 - Extended School Year eligibility and programming
 - Early Childhood
 - Out of District
 - Specific Learning Disabilities (including dyslexia)

Special Education Continuum: Existing & Projected Program Development

Least Restrictive Program ↓ Most Restrictive Program	Elementary		Secondary	
	K-6		7-8	9-12
	Related Services		Related Services	Related Services
	Learning Center		Learning Center	Learning Center
	Connections		Connections II	Bridges
	Build Out (2019-2020)		Language Learning Program (LLP)	Supported Career Education (SCE) Program
	Resource Programs		Center for Learning & Student Services (CLASS) Program	Relational Emotional Academic Learning (REAL) Program
			Build Out (TBD)	Occupational Development (ODP) Program
	Pathways I and II		Build Out (2020-21)	Build Out (2022-23)
	Out-Of-District Programs			

WELLNESS • EQUITY • ENGAGEMENT

SLD Programming

- Language-based learning program slated to be developed at the elementary level
- What have been families' experiences to date? How can those help inform program development?
- What are best practices around early identification and remediation, particularly of dyslexia?
- How does early identification look with the Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports?

*From the ABRSD FY19 Budget Presentation Slides (1/28/18)

SLDs: What Do Students Experience?

Understood.org has simulators for learning and attention issues from pre-K to grade 12 with student testimonials and expert explanations.



Through Your Child's Eyes

Experience learning and attention issues firsthand with one-of-a-kind simulations.

Reading issues



Grade 5



Experience It

a=o the=then is=as w=m



m h e r e i n t h e n m a r l d

a s s h e n a m ?

Parent/Guardian Education

- Hosting Basic Rights workshop in partnership with Maynard, Sudbury, Concord/Concord-Carlisle SEPACs and our respective school districts
- Partnering with Concord/Concord-Carlisle SEPAC for second workshop on communication or IEP development
- Mass Advocates for Children presentation on schoolwide bullying prevention strategies and the IEP
- Continuing to share information with families regarding other trainings and conferences
- The Federation for Children with Special Needs has produced Basic Rights and other webinars in Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish and is offering the intensive Parent Consultant Training Institute in Spanish

New Open Issue: Inclusion

- New open issue on SEPAC business meeting agendas around “Increasing opportunities for meaningful inclusion across domains”
- We began to highlight access and inclusion issues and opportunities last year
- In addition to creation and further development of in-house program options, there are a number of pending general education initiatives with potential impacts for Students with Disabilities
 - District Curriculum Accommodation Plan (DCAP)
 - Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports
 - Building project
- As we continue to foster general education capacity, we need to safeguard rights to free, appropriate public education and special education instruction—not just provide accommodations
- Opportunity to bring in speakers on best practices, developing friendships, recreation, etc.

Next Meeting & Thanks

Wednesday, October 3, 2018
7:30 p.m.
RJ Grey Junior High library

*With thanks to the Student Services department and the
Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee
for their time and continued partnership*

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