
Welcome to the Clinton Township SEPAG

September 27, 2022

Introductions

Jennifer Paccione, Director of Special Services

Stephanie Rosa, Supervisor of Special Services
and Instruction

**Who are you and what is your favorite pizza
topping or type of pizza?**

What is SEPAG?

A **Special Education Parent Advisory Group**, or SEPAG (sea-pag) is a state-mandated, district-level, parent-driven group charged with providing input to the local school district on system-level challenges in special education and related services.

A SEPAG gives parents the opportunity to provide direct input to their school district about policies, programs, practices, and services that have an impact on students with disabilities and their families.

Who can be a member of a SEPAG?

Parents are the core members of a SEPAG. Parents do not need special training or background knowledge to be a member of a SEPAG.

Other members may include:

- School leaders, including the District Supervisor of Special Services and/or members of the Board of Education
 - Teachers
 - Child Study Team members, and other school professionals
 - Other parents committed to improving education in their district
 - Community leaders and other citizens.
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What is SEPAG is Not...

- an advocacy assistance group, which focuses on upholding rights for children and advocating for change from outside the system
- a limited campaign dedicated to addressing a single issue or immediate concern
- a Special Education PTO or PTA, which might plan carnivals, classroom activities, dances, fundraisers, or other events.

According to SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

Mission Statement

United with the district, and its commitment to excellence for all children, the Parent Advisory Group will strive to raise awareness, provide support and promote education of children with special needs and their parents for the benefit of the entire school community, in a manner that is inclusive, nurturing, and respectful.

Goals of SEPAG

- Acts as a liaison on behalf of parents to provide feedback on District strengths and areas of need and provide direct input on the programs and practices that impact services and supports for children with disabilities and their families.
 - Facilitates activities and events for all District students to raise awareness, acceptance and understanding of our differences as well as our similarities.
 - Fosters a positive and collaborative environment within the school community through parent education and involvement.
 - Addresses issues/concerns with the Director of Special Services and understand district initiatives related to special education and related services.
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Future Meeting Dates and Times

- December 8, 2022
- February 23, 2022
- May 18, 2023

To meet the needs of all families the times of the meeting dates may alternate.

How to become more involved in SEPAG...

- Become a parent leader for SEPAG, if you are interested in assisting with meetings please let me know
 - Assist with developing agendas for meetings
 - Volunteering to be the note taker for meetings
 - Assist with developing norm for our future meetings
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Resources

- [Starting and Running an Effective SEPAG](#) Thursday September 29, 12-1:30pm
 - <https://www.nj.gov/education/specialed/>
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Thank you for coming to our first SEPAG of 22-23

