

Oradell SEPAC

Parent Guide

What is a
Special Education
Parent Advisory
Council (SEPAC)
and how can it
help your family?



Working Hand in Hand to Support
Our Special Education Community

What is a SEPAC?

A Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a volunteer group of parents and guardians, which gives input to the school district and provides support and information to parents and caregivers of children with special needs. SEPACs exist in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code, which states: "Each district board of education shall ensure that a special education parent advisory group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities." – NJAC 6A:14-1.2 District eligibility for assistance under IDEA Part B item 18, letter (h)



Who can participate in the SEPAC?

The Oradell SEPAC is open to parents and caregivers who would like to make a difference for children who have special needs. Whether your child is being educated within the district or outside it, has a 504 Plan, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), a speech-only IEP, and/or participates in social skills groups or other programs, all are welcome.

When does the SEPAC meet?

The SEPAC hosts several meetings with school representatives during the school year. These meetings typically take place on weekday evenings in the OPS IMC/Library. The group also hosts informal meet-ups and informative presentations about topics related to education and Special Services.

What are the SEPAC's goals?

As a volunteer group, SEPAC initiatives depend on input from members. Among the group's interests are:

- Connecting families who are new to Special Services with experienced parent mentors who can answer questions and provide support.
- Helping students with transitions into new classes, new grades, and out of Oradell Public School.
- Informing parents about standardized testing procedures and test-taking accommodations.
- Establishing a central hub to share special services information and resources.
- Capturing suggestions and feedback and sharing this information with school administrators.
- Advocating for specialized training for school staff members who work with special needs students.
- Facilitating communication between parents and the Office of Special Services.
- Supporting programs and initiatives to encourage inclusivity and empathy within Oradell Public School.

I'm new to Special Services. Help!

The path to securing extra help for your child can be confusing and emotional. Visit the SEPAC website at

<http://oradellsepac.wixsite.com/oradellsepac>

to access parent resources and FAQs. We can also connect you to a mentor, who can provide support and share information based on their experiences.



How can I learn more?

Attend a SEPAC meeting, visit our website, or e-mail us. We can add you to our e-mail list to receive updates or invite you to join our closed Facebook Group.

Contacts

Oradell SEPAC

web: oradellsepac.wixsite.com/oradellsepac

e-mail: oradellsepac@gmail.com

Oradell Special Services

web: oradellschool.org/osnj

e-mail: mentime@oradellschool.org

phone: 201-261-1180, ext. 1005

Reach out!

Please e-mail us if you have questions or concerns, would like to receive a SEPAC parent mentor, or would like to learn more about SEPAC programs.

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