
AB SpEd PAC Goals

- Provide regular opportunities for meaningful dialogue between parents and our school systems
- Work in partnership with school administrators to plan, develop, evaluate and improve special education programs and their delivery
- Provide opportunities for parents and school personnel to participate in professional development and in-service training
- Participate in the special education budget process
- Offer outreach and support to members of the community
- Establish a support network for parents
- Provide education on the rights of students and parents under special education law and on how to develop effective educational plans
- Keep current with legislative actions and inform our members and the wider community



AB SpEd PAC Information

Two PAC Email Lists

1. **General List** – This list distributes workshop, conference and other general event announcements to parents, educators, and school administrators.
2. **Parent-to-Parent List** – This list provides the same general announcements to families plus it includes a parent-to-parent only discussion forum that allows parents to seek and receive support and information from other parents in a safe, supportive environment.

Being a member of the Parent-to-Parent group is a great way to keep abreast of current PAC activities and community opportunities/resources, as well as to participate in a parents' only discussion forum.

To join one of our email lists go to our website at <http://www.abspedpac.org> and identify which list you'd like to be added to.

Meeting & Activity Announcements

Information about SpEd PAC activities, including their times and locations, are posted at Town Hall as well as published in the Beacon and the Action Unlimited. This information is also regularly mailed to our email list members and included in the Calendar section of the AB SpEd PAC's website.

Boxborough SEPAC

Boxborough has a Special Education Parent Advisory Council that serves families in Boxborough with children in grades K-6. For more information contact Nancy Settle-Murphy at (978) 263-0552.

Other Online Resources

Concord SEPAC: <http://concordspedpac.org>
The Federation (FCSN): <http://www.fcsn.org>
DOE Website: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped>
Wrightslaw: <http://www.wrightslaw.com>

Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council



*Giving families individual support and
a collective voice in Special Education*

Contact Information

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AB SpEd PAC Website

<http://www.abspedpac.org>

Special Education

Children come with different styles, different smiles and different needs. Some of our children have special educational needs that parents and educators strive together to meet. We need information to make informed choices, a voice to make our perspectives heard, and the support of others who understand our challenges.



Children with special needs are all unique. Some may have physical or cognitive challenges ranging from limited mobility, impaired hearing or vision to speech and language challenges, sensory issues, or social and emotional difficulties. Some may have problems with math or reading.

However, all children have one thing in common. They need full access to the educational opportunities available in our communities. And they are guaranteed this access by law. The Acton/Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council can help parents ensure that all children in our school district have the tools they need to be successful.

About the AB SpEd PAC

The Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council is a volunteer group of parents who care about special education. We gather together to share the experience we need to become empowered participants in our children's education. And our combined voices help make sure that parent's priorities stay on the school district's agenda.

Any interested individuals, whether or not their children have special needs, are welcome to join the PAC and participate in any of the activities and events sponsored by our organization.

PAC Activities

Regular PAC activities include:

- Meetings with invited speakers, special education administrators, and school committee members
- Parent support groups focused on the specific disabilities, needs and grade levels of our children
- Disseminating informational materials and expanding our website to help parents stay informed and educated
- Social events to allow families to gather informally and make connections in the community

PAC Charter

State law mandates the existence of a Parent Advisory Council in every school district. Our duties under the 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.”*

To this end, a group of PAC parents meets monthly with special education administrators to discuss programs, budgets, and other issues of importance, then reports back to the full PAC for discussion. PAC representatives attend School Committee meetings and PTO meetings in the district. These representatives also act as PAC liaisons for parents at each school.

The AB SpEd PAC's Mission

The Acton-Boxborough Special Education Parent Advisory Council works to ensure understanding, respect, support and the appropriate education of all children in our community. We strive to:

- Promote and support an innovative educational environment wherein children with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities, encouraging all students to realize their full potential
- Build a network for parents of children with disabilities and provide a forum for sharing information and discussing matters of interest and concern regarding our children
- Maintain a dialogue with the community to encourage understanding, respect, acceptance and inclusion of children with disabilities
- Collaborate with the school community to continually improve resources and educational outcomes for children with disabilities
- Promote and enhance communication between parents and school administrators

