

Leading With Your PACs

Tapping in to a Resource for Equity



What We Will Cover:

- ❑ **School Committee Responsibilities**
- ❑ **What is a SEPAC?**
- ❑ **What is an ELPAC/MLPAC?**
- ❑ **The Role of SEPACs and ELPACs/MLPACs**
- ❑ **Engaging your PACs**
- ❑ **Resources**
- ❑ **Questions/Comments**

What is a SEPAC?

"... 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 programs. The parent advisory council shall establish by-laws regarding officers and operational procedures. In the course of its duties under this section, the parent advisory council shall receive assistance from the school committee without charge, upon reasonable notice, and subject to the availability of staff and resources. ..."

MGL Chapter 71B, Section 3

What is an ELPAC?

The "Act Relative to Language Opportunity for Our Kids," Chapter 138 of the Acts of 2017, commonly referred to as the "LOOK Act," was signed into law by Governor Baker on November 22, 2017. Related to ELPACs, the LOOK Act requires the following schools or districts to establish ELPACs:

School districts or charter schools operating a language acquisition program for ELs serving 100 or more ELs or in which ELs comprise at least five percent of the school district's or charter school's student population, whichever is less.

Schools designated as underperforming or chronically underperforming and operating a program for ELs.

School Committee Responsibilities

- Establish district policies that ensure adherence to legal requirements of access, due process, and discipline
- Establish equitable district budget, including review of Special Education Circuit Breaker process
- Confirm superintendent's recommendation for special education director
- Review findings of the Tiered Focus Monitoring process
- Accountability for student success and quality of programs
- Advocate for Students with Special Needs and English Language Learners

To be able to...

Effectively advocate for students with Special Needs and English/Multi-Language Learners

Ideas for effectively liaising with your PACs

- ❑ Support PACs in holding meetings in person or virtually.
- ❑ Send a SC liaison to the PAC meetings.
- ❑ Invite the PACs to a School Committee meeting to present on their activities.
- ❑ Evaluate and create district policies that consider all students and families by soliciting input from PACs.
- ❑ Support the sharing of district information regarding PACs with the entire community.
- ❑ When putting together advisory committees, share out to the PACs to ensure stakeholder involvement.

New This Fall:

KBG - PARENT ADVISORY COUNCILS (PACs)

A policy for school committees identifying the requirements for PACs, and encouraging liaising with them.

November is SEPAC Awareness Month.



The flyer features a blue background with white clouds. At the top, it says "Wear Yellow Day" in a large, black, handwritten-style font. A yellow crown is above "Wear" and a yellow sock is below "Day". To the left is a yellow t-shirt and to the right is a yellow sock. Below this, it says "for SEPAC AWARENESS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Underneath that, in a smaller font, it says "Supporting children with Special Education needs". A yellow box at the top right contains the text "NOVEMBER 13TH". At the bottom, there is a yellow box with contact information: "For support, contact us tewksburysepac@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at "Friends of TSEPAC" group or "TSEPAC-Tewksbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council" business page. Design credit for flyer courtesy of North Andover SEPAC."

Wear **Yellow Day** for **SEPAC AWARENESS**
Supporting children with Special Education needs

NOVEMBER 13TH

What is a **SEPAC**? A SEPAC is a Special Education Parent Advisory Council. Every public school district in Massachusetts is required to establish a SEPAC. SEPAC is a non-profit parent organization that serves as advocates for children with disabilities and other interested parties.

For support, contact us tewksburysepac@gmail.com. Find us on Facebook at "Friends of TSEPAC" group or "TSEPAC-Tewksbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council" business page. Design credit for flyer courtesy of North Andover SEPAC.

By passing this legislation, we will save countless lives by early detection of this dangerous cancer which has become more common in younger adults. Thank you, Alexa, for sharing your story and our shared work to make a difference in the lives of Massachusetts families.



The month of November is Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Awareness Month — the third year SEPAC Awareness Month has been recognized by **Governor Charlie Baker** and the 35th anniversary of the Massachusetts Law requiring the establishment of SEPACs





NEWTON, MA SEPAC

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Special Education Parent Advisory Council



The Newton Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Newton SEPAC) is an all-volunteer group of parents of children with special needs in Newton, MA. As mandated by Massachusetts law, we provide feedback to the School Committee and school district on special education programs and policies, and participate in their planning and development.

Newton SEPAC also serves as a liaison between parents of students with special needs and school district administrators.



Join our listserv





Special Education Parent Advisory Council

[HOME](#)

[What is SEPAC](#)

[Who is SEPAC](#)

[Our Schools](#)

[Meeting Calendar](#)

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ENGLISH LEARNER PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL/ELPAC

[QPS Family Liaisons](#)

[English Learner Parent
Advisory
Council/ELPAC](#)

MA State Seal of
Biliteracy

[Quincy Public Schools / Our District / Academic Programs / English Learner Education / English Learner Parent Advisory Council/ELPAC](#)

ELPAC

The English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) is open to parents/guardians of English learners (ELs) in Quincy. The purpose of the ELPAC is to promote and support the success of ELs. ELPACs are intended by law to advise the district and schools regarding matters that impact English learners, including language acquisition programs, educational opportunities for ELs, and improvement plans as they relate to ELs.



Connect with ELPAC

- [@QuincyELPAC on Facebook](#)
- [@quincy_elpac on Instagram](#)
- [Quincy CityWide PTO](#)
- Email elpacquincypublicschool@gmail.com

Resources for Families

Presentation from November 3, 2022 ELPAC meeting:

PROGRAMS

Overview >

English Language Education (ELE) ^

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) ^

ELPAC Meeting Minutes >

ELPAC By-Laws >

Other Resources >

What's New?? FACE Newsletters >

METCO >

Step to Success >

Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP) >

English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC)

The English Learner Parent Advisory Council is open to parents/guardians of English learners (ELs) in Brookline. The purpose of the ELPAC is to promote and support the success of ELs. ELPACs are intended by law to advise the district and schools regarding matters that impact English learners including language acquisition programs, educational opportunities for ELs, and improvement plans as they relate to ELs.


ELPAC meeting slides are posted following each meeting.

[2023-24 Meeting Slides and Recordings](#)

- **January 10, 2024** - [Slides from this meeting can be found here](#)
The recording of this meeting can be found [here](#). Please use this passcode to access the recording: **A2.6p10G**

- **November 8, 2023** - [Slides from this meeting can be found here](#)

[2022-23 Meeting Slides and Recordings](#)

- **January 18, 2023** (Information Session) - [Slides from this meeting can be found here.](#)
- **February 8, 2023** - [Slides from this meeting can be found here.](#) 

Contact Us

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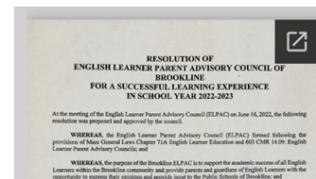
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ELPAC Resolution



Local SEPACs and ELPACs

Newton SEPAC

<https://newtonpac.org/>

Westford Public Schools' SEPAC

<https://sepacwestford.wixsite.com/my-site>

Quincy Public Schools' ELPAC

https://www.quincypublicschools.com/our_district/academic_programs/english_learner_education/english_learner_parent_advisory_council_e_l_p_a_c

Brookline Public Schools' ELPAC

<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/Page/2512>

Resources:

MA DESE Guidance for SEPACs and ELPACs

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/>

The Federation for Children with Special Needs

<https://fcsn.org/>

MASSPAC

<https://fcsn.org/masspac/>

The Federation's ELPAC Guidance

<https://fcsn.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2022/05/English-Learners-and-ELPACs.pdf>

Questions/Comments?