SEPAG Mission Statement

The mission of the New Milford Public Schools Special Education Parental Advisory Group (SEPAG) is to encourage and facilitate honest and effective communication, understanding, and mutual respect in a supportive partnership, inclusive of all students, parents, educators, and the community at large.

The SEPAG collaborates with the district's Director of Special Services and administrators regularly, and strives to ensure the delivery of appropriate services to students with disabilities for the purpose of improving the quality of district-wide special education policies, programs, and practices.

It is our goal to empower parents to become effective advocates for their children, and offer a supportive, informative, and encouraging forum to raise questions, voice concerns, and provide direct input to administrators regarding Special Services.

New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C.):6A:14-1.2(h)

"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."

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SEPAG

New Milford School District Special Education Parent Advisory Group



Bringing parents and the school district together!

COLUMN 3: Inside Left Column

Who should join SEPAG

All New Milford parents and guardians of a student with special needs or learning differences who is eligible for or receiving services under an IEP or 504 Plan, is enrolled in the New Milford public schools, or whose designated home school district is New Milford, but currently attends an Out-of-District placement.



SEPAG provides direct input to the New Milford School District on system-level challenges in special education and related services, with an outlook toward improving upon existing policies and procedures that affect the education, health, and safety of our special needs students.

COLUMN 4: Inside Middle Column

Meetings provide a private forum for parents to communicate about issues that they are personally experiencing, and discuss ways that we can work toward providing solutions to the issues that are discussed.

Zoom Meetings for 2021/2022 School Year:
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 7 PM
Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at 7 PM
Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 7 PM
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7 PM
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7 PM

Meeting topics include:

- 1. **Discussion** of issues specific to special needs students in the district.
- 2. **Opportunity** for parents to voice concerns and connect with other parents of students with special needs in the community.
- 3. **Specialists** and district personnel will be invited to present information on topics of interest throughout the year based on parent input.
- 4. **Information** regarding the IEP/504 process and resources for parents of students with special needs.

COLUMN 5: Inside Right Column

Special Education Parent Advisory Groups are required for all school districts in New Jersey, and are parent-driven and parent-led. The purpose of the SEPAG is to:

- 1. Offer an opportunity for parents to increase involvement, and have a discussion on critical issues related to students with special needs, and serve as a resource by giving information to other parents in the New Milford School District.
- 2. Work with the New Milford School District administration and teachers, and advise the Board of Education on the policies, programs, and practices that affect services and supports for students with special needs and their families.
- 3. Advise on matters pertaining to the education, health, and safety of students with special needs.
- 4. Advise on possible unmet needs of students with special needs.
- 5. Establish a venue to demonstrate mutual respect for the roles of parent leadership and school leadership.