

Who Can Benefit from Special Education Services?

Every child has unique strengths and needs. Some children have obvious challenges: a visual, hearing, or motor impairment. Others have “hidden” disabilities, such as specific learning disabilities, autism, sensory processing problems, or difficulty regulating emotions and behavior.

There are many types of special needs and many ways to support students with them. The goal of education is to enable *all* children to progress in school according to their potential. State law states that all children should make “documented growth” in acquiring skills, including social/emotional development. Some of the support services the school can provide include: special curricula; physical, occupational, or speech therapy; a classroom aide; assistive technology; transportation; or placement in a specialized program or school.

What is NewtonPAC?

NewtonPAC advises the Newton School Committee about special education, and provides information, support and community connection for Newton families whose children receive special education services. We are an all-volunteer group that welcomes everyone to our meetings and provides an online listserve to parents for questions, support and referrals.

How Can NewtonPAC Help Me?

When a child struggles in school, parents may feel frustrated, helpless, angry, sad, and alone. NewtonPAC welcomes you into a network of supportive parents who have “been there.”

NewtonPAC members provide information and support to help other parents feel empowered and optimistic about their child’s education. We offer:

- Parent-to-parent support and networking
- Educational forums and workshops
- Online discussion group
- An avenue to bring concerns to the school administration.

Please Join Us!

Membership is free and open to all.

Visit our web site
www.newtonpac.org

or contact us at
info@newtonpac.org.

Resources

- **Federation for Children with Special Needs** www.fcsn.org
617-236-7210
Information Center with answers to special education questions
1-800-331-0688
- **Parent’s Guide to Special Education** (written by the FCSN and the Mass. Dept. of Education) is available at:
http://www.fcsn.org/parents_guide/pgenglish.pdf
- **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** 617-357-8431
www.massadvocates.org
Great resource for information on special education rights and laws
- **Asperger/Autism Network**
www.aane.org
617-393-3824
- **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**
www.doe.mass.edu
781-338-3000
- **Network of Newton Autism Parents (NoNAP)**
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/NoNAP/info>
- **Project INTERFACE:** Mental health helpline and information
HELPLINE **888-244-6843**
www.projectinterface.org
- **Wrightslaw** www.wrightslaw.com