



# HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

- **A Voice in Decision-Making:** We advise the school committee on policies, services, and special education programming, ensuring parents' concerns are heard.
- **Workshops & Trainings:** We provide educational events on topics like bullying prevention, the IEP process, and students' legal rights.
- **Support Groups & Networking:** We offer parent support groups (both evening and morning options) to connect families and share resources.
- **Advocacy for Systematic Change:** We work with district leaders to address service gaps, funding concerns (such as budget needs), staff shortages, and special education program effectiveness.
- **Resources & Guidance:** We help parents navigate the special education system, understand their child's rights, and access appropriate supports.
- **Community Building:** We foster collaboration between parents, schools, and the central office to strengthen relationships and improve student outcomes.



**[www.amesburysepac.org](http://www.amesburysepac.org)**

**[amesburysepac@gmail.com](mailto:amesburysepac@gmail.com)**

**Find us on Facebook. Scan the QR codes below**

## Current Board Members

Hillary Fraize Co-Chair  
 Matthew Lipson Co-Chair  
 Katie Jordan Secretary  
 Heather Lull Treasurer



Scan QR code to request access to our private SEPAC group



Scan QR code to join our public Facebook page

## What is SEPAC?

The Amesbury Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is a parent-led group that:

- Advocates for systematic change for students with disabilities.
- Is required by state law under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Advises the school committee on special education policies, services, and programs.
- Collaborates with district leaders to improve special education and ensure legal compliance.
- Provides a space for families to connect, share resources, and build a supportive community.
- Empower parents and caregivers to advocate for appropriate support and services for their children



**AMESBURY**  
**SEPAC** SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) – Problem Resolution System (PRS)

If you believe the district is not meeting legal requirements for education, the PRS office can assist in resolving these issues.

- Contact Information:
- Phone: (781) 338-3700
- Email: [DESECompliance@mass.gov](mailto:DESECompliance@mass.gov)
- Website: [DESE Problem Resolution System](#)

## Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN)

FCSN provides information, support, and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners, and their communities.

- Contact Information:
- Phone: (617) 236-7210
- Website: [Federation for Children with Special Needs](#)

## Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC)

MAC offers guidance, resources, and referrals to families facing barriers in accessing educational support and services.

- Helpline:
- Phone: (617) 357-8431
- Online Intake Form: [MAC Helpline](#)

## Special Needs Advocacy Network (SPAN)

SPAN is an organization dedicated to empowering advocates, families, and education professionals to help students with disabilities.

- Contact Information:
- Phone: (508) 655-7999
- Email: [email protected]
- Website: [SpecialNeedsAdvocacyNetwork](#)

## The EdLaw Project

A collaboration between the Youth Advocacy Foundation and the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the EdLaw Project provides education advocacy for children and youth aged 0-22.

- Contact Information:
- Phone: (617) 910-5841
- Email: [edlawproject@publiccounsel.net](mailto:edlawproject@publiccounsel.net)
- Website: [EdLawProject](#)

## Children's Law Center of Massachusetts

Provides legal representation and advocacy for low-income children in matters such as education, immigration, and juvenile justice.

- Contact Information:
- Phone: (781) 581-1977
- Website: [Children's Law Center of Massachusetts](#)

# BECOMING A MEMBER

## Membership is open to everyone!



If you're a parent, guardian, or caregiver living in Amesbury or have a child attending Amesbury Public Schools, you are automatically eligible to join SEPAC no IEP or 504 Plan required!

We believe that every family should have a voice in special education, whether you have a child with a disability, want to learn more about the system, or simply care about making our schools more inclusive.



## Who Can Join?

- Any Amesbury resident or parent/caregiver of a child in Amesbury Public Schools
- caregiver of students with or without an IEP, 504 Plan, or other support services
- Educators, community members, and allies who want to support special education initiatives

# OUR MISSION

## The Mission Of The Amesbury SEPAC is to

- Provide education and information to parents, guardians, and the broader community on special education issues and services.
- Foster better understanding, respect, and support for special education.
- Collaborate with the Amesbury Public Schools District to ensure that students' needs under applicable laws are met.

We are committed to empowering families, advocating for systematic change, and strengthening relationships between parents and schools to create an inclusive and supportive educational environment for all students.

