



Welcome to Northfield Community Schools SEPAG Program

Building bridges between families and educators to support every student's
unique learning journey

What is SEPAG?



SEPAG stands for **Special Education Parent Advisory Group** — a collaborative partnership bringing together parents and educators.

We serve as the collective voice for families of students with special education needs, ensuring their perspectives shape district planning, policies, and services. Through shared expertise and experience, we strengthen support systems for every child.

SEPAG is not an advocacy assistance group, which focuses on upholding rights for children and advocating for change from outside the system. Nor is it a limited campaign dedicated to addressing a single issue or immediate concern.

Individual vs. Systemic

- Often, parents bring a perspective to an issue that is based on personal experiences with their own child. Taking action on behalf of a single child is “individual advocacy.”
- While this is vital, the goal of the SEPAG is to look at systemic issues – that is, challenges and opportunities that impact more than one student or family.
- An effective SEPAG invites, collects, and coordinates individual stories and perspectives from parents. It then looks at this input to see patterns or trends that can be addressed through policies, programs, and services that have the potential to affect many students with disabilities.
- That is how SEPAGs move from an individual issue to systemic change.

Our Mission



Empower Families

Providing information, resources, and advocacy tools to help families navigate special education confidently



Foster Partnership

Building strong, collaborative relationships between families and school staff through open communication



Improve Outcomes

Working together to enhance educational experiences and achievements for students with disabilities



Promote Inclusion

Creating welcoming, supportive school environments where every student belongs and thrives

Who's Involved?

SEPAG brings together a diverse team of dedicated individuals committed to supporting students with special education needs. Every voice contributes to our collective strength.

Parents & Guardians

Families of students receiving special education services who share lived experience and advocacy

Educators & Specialists

Special education teachers and related service providers with classroom expertise

Support Staff

School psychologists, counselors, and administrators offering professional guidance

Community Partners

District special services staff and community advocates expanding our network

What SEPAG Does

Regular Meetings

Gatherings where we share district updates, discuss concerns, and gather valuable family input on special education initiatives.

District Advisory Role

Providing guidance on policies, programs, and practices that directly impact students with special needs.

Family Connections

Building a supportive network that links families to local services, support groups, and experienced parent mentors.



How SEPAG Supports Families



IEP Navigation

Expert guidance through the Individualized Education Program process, from preparation to implementation and annual reviews



Legal Knowledge

Clear information about state and federal special education laws, including IDEA protections and family rights



Assistive Resources

Connections to assistive technology, therapy services, accommodations, and specialized learning tools



Community Network

Opportunities to connect with other families facing similar journeys and learn from experienced parent advocates



JOIN US

Getting Involved

Ready to Connect?

SEPAG membership is open to all families of students with special education needs. No experience necessary — just a desire to learn, share, and advocate.

We meet you where you are.



Open to All Families

Every parent or guardian of a student receiving special education services is welcome to participate.



Flexible Meeting Times

Sessions scheduled at convenient times and accessible locations throughout the school year.



Easy Contact

Reach our SEPAG coordinator through the Northfield Public Schools website or special services office.

Meet Your SEPAG Parent Board

Our dedicated volunteers advocate for all students, bringing diverse experiences and skills to support our community.



President

Eirini Kouzoukas



Vice Presidents

Gina Rosa and Selena Lamprou



Secretary

Emily Sullivan



Treasurer

Ivana Bozhinovska



Membership Chair

Veronica Cappella

School District Liaisons

Superintendent pbretones@ncs-nj.org (609) 407-4000 ext 8504

Special Education Coordinator twilliams@ncs-nj.org (609) 407-4000 ext 8511

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