

Chelsea SEPAC Meeting Minutes

Date: June 2, 2026

Location: 77 Webster Avenue, Chelsea, MA

Presenter: Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC)

Topic: Anti-Bullying Law, Student Rights, and IEP Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting opened with a welcome to families and community members. Representatives from Massachusetts Advocates for Children (MAC) presented information regarding bullying prevention, student rights, and protections for students with disabilities.

Presentation Highlights

MAC provided an overview of the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law and emphasized that students with disabilities are significantly more likely to experience bullying than their non-disabled peers. Families learned about the legal definition of bullying, schoolwide responsibilities, family involvement, and the requirement that IEP Teams consider the impact of bullying on students with disabilities.

IEP and Disability Considerations

The presentation highlighted circumstances when an IEP Team should reconvene, including when a student with a disability is being bullied or exhibits bullying behavior related to their disability. Families reviewed possible supports, accommodations, and services that may help students safely access their educational programs.

Chelsea Public Schools Bullying Prevention Curriculum

The group also discussed Chelsea Public Schools' bullying prevention curriculum, TRAILS (Transforming Research into Action to Improve the Lives of Students). Families learned how TRAILS supports students' social-emotional development through instruction in emotional awareness, coping skills, positive peer relationships, and problem-solving strategies. The discussion highlighted how proactive social-emotional learning and mental health supports can help prevent bullying behaviors, foster inclusive school environments, and strengthen students' ability to advocate for themselves and others.

Strategies and Supports

Examples of supports discussed included social skills instruction, communication supports, counseling, self-advocacy development, structured peer interactions, academic and non-academic accommodations, and clear procedures for responding to bullying incidents.

Resources for Families

MAC shared resources available to families, including guidance documents, complaint resolution options, and contact information for advocacy support.

Discussion and Questions

Families engaged in discussion regarding bullying prevention, school responses, the TRAILS curriculum, and strategies for advocating for students through the IEP process.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with appreciation to Massachusetts Advocates for Children for providing valuable information and resources to support families and students. Chelsea SEPAC remains committed to partnering with families and community organizations to ensure all students have access to safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.