



# Springfield SEPAG Newsletter

## September 2026

Hello and welcome to the Inaugural Springfield SEPAG Newsletter and to the 2026-2027 school year! Please bear with me as this first edition is full of essential information to get our school year off to a great start, so get your cup of coffee and dive right in!

My name is Analia Henriques, and I am honored to serve as your SEPAG leader for the upcoming academic year. In addition to being a mom, wife, and corporate professional, my most important role is advocate for my 12-year-old son, Adrien, who just started 6th grade at FMG. Adrien was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called ADNP Syndrome and manages its challenges on a daily basis. Because he is unable to speak up for himself, my husband and I have become his strongest voices, a journey that many of you in our community know all too well.

I am thrilled to step into this role and am committed to serving as an active, effective liaison between our families and the school district. Together, we can ensure our children receive the support, resources, and opportunities they deserve.

I invite you to join me on this journey as we build a strong, collaborative community this year!

### What Does It Means to Be Part of SEPAG?

Being a part of SEPAG means joining a compassionate, dedicated community of parents, caregivers, and educators who share a common goal: ensuring every student with unique learning needs thrives.

It is much more than attending meetings, it is about active engagement, mutual support, and constructive collaboration. **Here is what being an active SEPAG member looks like:**



- **Being a Proactive Voice:** You bring your unique perspective, lived experiences, and creative solutions to the table to help identify system-wide needs and shape positive changes within our district.
- **Engaging in Meetings & Workshops:** Attending meetings, workshops, and discussion forums allows you to stay informed, ask meaningful questions, and directly participate in dialogue with school leaders and special education experts.
- **Sharing Knowledge & Resources:** As parents, our collective experience is our greatest asset. Being a member means passing along useful resources, educational strategies, community programs, and local support options to fellow families.
- **Building a Supportive Network:** SEPAG creates a safe, welcoming space where parents can connect, exchange stories, offer encouragement, and remind one another that no family has to navigate this journey alone.
- **Partnering for Student Success:** At its core, SEPAG is about collaboration. Members work alongside district staff, administrators, and teachers in a spirit of constructive partnership to foster an inclusive, supportive educational environment.

Whether you can attend every meeting, share updates with a neighbor, or offer input on district initiatives, your participation strengthens our entire community!

## What's New This Month

### Back to School Roadshow

September brought our students back to the classroom, and I kicked off the year with a "Back to School Roadshow"! I had the opportunity to attend every Back to School Night across the district to share what SEPAG is, how we support families, and how parents can get involved. We are excited to see our community grow as new families join us!



## A Fresh New Look

You might notice something different at the top of the page, we have an updated SEPAG logo! We wanted a fresh look for the new school year to represent our ongoing mission and community connection.

## Expanding Our Resources & Collaborations

I am actively working to build new community partnerships and collaborations. Our goal is to bring you educational opportunities, expert insights, and practical tools so that we can all be the best possible advocates for our children.

## SEPAG Newsletter

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter! To keep everything organized and accessible, I will be publishing a roundup at the end of each month containing key updates, upcoming events, and useful resources all in one place.

## Bi-Monthly Meeting Schedule

Our bi-monthly meeting schedule for the school year is officially set! These meetings will provide a consistent space for us to connect, share feedback, and collaborate with district leaders. Due to my work schedule, it is difficult to hold daytime meetings, but I will do my best to accommodate one or 2 during the year. I will also work on having a few in-person meetings, hence the TBD locations. Stay tuned!



## Upcoming SEPAG Meetings\*

Please join us for the 2026-2027 Kick-off SEPAG meeting. Ms. Ann Suter, Director of Student Services, will be our guest speaker. Looking forward to a great Meeting!

**Topic:** SEPAG October 2026 Meeting

**Time:** Oct 7, 2026 08:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84755746689?pwd=K6kunj7tXvCQ9XmVyPFAPi18GbSkRh.1>

### Join and take notes

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84755746689?pwd=K6kunj7tXvCQ9XmVyPFAPi18GbSkRh.1&mynotes=on>

### Meeting chat link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/84755746689>

**Meeting ID:** 847 5574 6689

**Passcode:** 610238

| DATE             | TIME  | LOCATION       |
|------------------|-------|----------------|
| October 7, 2026  | 8-9pm | Virtual - Zoom |
| December 9, 2026 | 8-9pm | TBD            |
| February 3, 2027 | 8-9pm | TBD            |
| April 14, 2027   | 8-9pm | TBD            |
| June 2, 2027     | 8-9pm | TBD            |

\*Days/ Times are Subject to Change



## Upcoming SEPAG Workshops



### Essential Components of the IEP

What Every Parent Should know about the IEP

Virtual Training!

**Date:** Tuesday, October 27, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

**Place:** Zoom

Participants will learn:

- To read and understand an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) document
- To effectively participate in IEP meetings
- To address IEP concerns/issues in a proactive and positive way.

Contact Joann Nahmias for more information: [jnahmias@spanadvocacy.org](mailto:jnahmias@spanadvocacy.org)

[Click here or Scan QR code to Register](#)



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## Upcoming Events

### 1. Fall Festival & Resource Fair for All Abilities - All Ages

**Date:** Sunday, October 11, 2026

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** Oak Ridge Park, Clark, NJ

### 2. Family Spooktacular Night Celebration - All Ages

**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2026

**Time:** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Location:** Recreation Center, Rahway, NJ

**Open to Union County residents of all ages. Caregivers are required to remain onsite during the program and events .**

For more information, please see the attached flyers. These programs are free; however, space is limited and registration is required. We encourage families to register at [Union County OPDSN](#).

We also have many additional programs and events planned throughout the year and look forward to sharing more opportunities with the community.

For additional questions regarding the programs, please contact me at **908-527-4781** or Diana Calle at **908-527-4807**.

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this information with your school community and families who may benefit from these inclusive recreational opportunities.

## Visit us

**EMAIL:** [spssepag@gmail.com](mailto:spssepag@gmail.com)

**FACEBOOK:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1ag4NcxRN3/>

### SEPAG Board Of Education Page:

<https://www.springfieldschools.com/administration/student-support-services/special-education-parent-advisory-group-sepag>