Bylaws of the Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG)

Manalapan Englishtown Regional School District

Article I: Name

- The name of this organization shall be the Manalapan Englishtown Regional School District Special Education Parent Advisory Group, herein referred to as SEPAG.

Article II: Purpose

- The purpose of the SEPAG is to provide parents, guardians, and caregivers of students with disabilities a forum to share their experiences, ideas, and concerns, and to collaborate with the school district's staff and administration. SEPAG aims to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for students with disabilities within the Manalapan Englishtown Regional School District by fostering open communication and working toward solutions that benefit both students and the school community.

Article III: General Policies

- The SEPAG name or the names of any members in their official capacities shall not be connected to any commercial interest, partisan cause, or any purpose not directly related to the promotion of the SEPAG's mission and goals.
- SEPAG is a non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan organization.
- SEPAG shall not engage in political campaigns but may participate in discussions and advocacy for school-related issues such as education policy.

Article IV: Membership

- Membership in SEPAG is open to all parents and guardians of children with disabilities enrolled in the Manalapan-Englishtown Regional School District (MERS), and to staff and administrators who support the group's mission. A parent or guardian may continue to serve on the board after their child ages out of or graduates from the district, provided they resided in the MERS district at the time of their appointment.
- No membership dues shall be required for participation in SEPAG.
- Membership in SEPAG allows parents to participate in meetings and discuss systematic issues to improve delivery of Special Education.
- Only members in good standing, who actively participate in meetings and adhere to the bylaws, will be eligible to be on the SEPAG board.
- A senior board member will be appointed at the beginning of each calendar year (a senior board member must have served at least 2+ years on the SEPAG board).
- A senior board member will be responsible for coordinating meetings and agendas for each SEPAG meeting.

Article V: Eligibility

- Any member in good standing may be nominated to run for SEPAG Board.

Article VI: Removal from Office

- Board members may be removed from office with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of current board members present.
- Board members must remain respectful at all meetings. Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from the SEPAG board.
- Board members must refrain from giving specific recommendations or instructions to parents. Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from SEPAG board.
- Board members must refrain from advocating for intent of own child/children thru SEPAG. Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from SEPAG board.

Article VII: Meetings

- SEPAG shall hold at least two (2) general membership meetings throughout the school year. Notice of all meetings shall be provided to members at least two weeks in advance in a board meeting.
- All topics discussed at SEPAG meetings shall be agreed upon at prior board meetings.

Article VIIII: Amendments

- These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the board members present at a special meeting, provided notice of the proposed amendment was shared with the SEPAG board prior to the meeting.

Article IX: Conflict of Interest

- SEPAG adopts a Conflict of Interest Policy to ensure transparency and fairness in decision-making. Board members are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest related to SEPAG activities.

Updated October, 2026