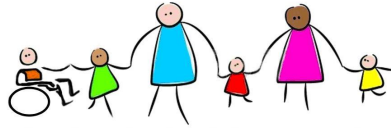


Hardyston Township Special Education Parent Advisory Group
SEPAG



Bringing the school and the community together

Welcome to the Hardyston Township Special Education Parent Advisory Group

The New Jersey Administrative Code 6A14-1.2(h) states each district's board of education shall ensure that a Special Education Parent Advisory Group is in place in the district to provide input to the district on issues concerning students with disabilities.

What is SEPAG?

SEPAG is an independent volunteer group and its effectiveness within the district is dependent on the participation of parents coming to meetings, discussing special education topics and learning about special education.

Who can become a SEPAG member?

Parents are the core members of a SEPAG. This includes parents of children with disabilities who may have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) who are educated in schools within or outside of the student's home district. Parents do not need special training or background knowledge to be a member of a SEPAG.

Other members may include:

- school leaders, including the District Supervisor of Special Services and/or members of the Board of Education and teachers
- Child Study Team members, and other school professionals
- students and former students
- other parents committed to improving education in their district
- community leaders and other citizens

Mission

The mission of SEPAG is to provide support, guidance and a safe sharing environment for families of children with special needs.

As a Special Education Parent Advisory Group, we act as a liaison on behalf of parents to provide input into District strengths and areas of need, and service as a resource to parents by communicating information about the special education process and programs currently available in Hardyston Township School District.

SEPAG Goals and Objectives

- Foster a partnership within the special education community through parent education and involvement
- Offer parents avenues to support organizations available our community
- Gather member comments/questions and foster communication with Hardyston Township School Administration and Department of Special Services
- Build a strong and solid partnership between parents and educators within Hardyston Township School District
- To provide direct input on the policies, programs and practices that impact services and supports for students with disabilities.
- To increase the involvement of families of children with special needs.
- To advise on issues that affect the education, health and safety of students with special needs.

What is the purpose of SEPAG?

This is a parent forum to share ideas, bring attention to issues that affect the students and provide solutions. Parents learn from other parents' topics, questions and advice and this is a forum where it can take place.

Secondly, SEPAG hosts Special Education Parent Workshops to help parents become better informed about special education topics and by conducting informational meetings featuring guests and topics that deal with Special Education needs.

Is SEPAG an official part of the Hardyston Township School District or the Board of Education?

No. SEPAG is a separate, independent volunteer group. The Hardyston Township SEPAG works in a cooperative effort along with the Hardyston Township School District and the Department of Special Services.

How do we achieve our goals?

Parent involvement, parent support, and parent input will make SEPAG effective within the school district and benefit students with disabilities.

What Happens at SEPAG Meetings?

- Concerns related to the special education community are shared and discussed.
- Updates related to Special Services in the Hardyston Township School District and at the State and National levels will be discussed.
- Open Forums - Presentations by community resources
- General Meetings - Community members and HTPS Administration will be present to discuss special education and school related issues
- Parent Meetings - Hardyston Township parents will discuss areas of concern pertaining to special education, health and safety of students within the district

Information & Contacts:

<https://www.facebook.com/hardystonSEPAG>

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