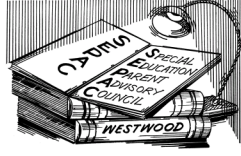


# ***THE IEP***

***Westwood's Independent Educational Paper***  
***A Service of Westwood's Special Education Parent Advisory Council***  
***(SEPAC)***



Volume 2

October 2008

***Welcome!!***

## ***Upcoming SEPAC Events & Meetings***

**Monday, October 6, 2008**

**Basic Rights Seminar**

**7-9 pm**

**Little Theatre**

**High School**

**200 Nahatan St.**

An introduction to families' rights and the district's responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Massachusetts Special Education Law. Designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the district, to determine a student's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.

**Monday, October 27, 2008**

**General Meeting**

**7-9 pm**

**Room A105**

**High School**

**220 Nahatan St.**

Vote on the proposed amendments to the bylaws, continue discussions on the district's coordinated program review and action plan, hear about latest events and finalize our agenda and committees for the upcoming year. Voting privileges are afforded to all members whose children are on IEP's or 504 plans. Membership is free and immediate upon application.

**Save the Dates!!**  
**November 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Family Portrait**  
**Fundraiser!!**  
**See Details below!**

**Save the Date!!**  
**November 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**MCAS Seminar!!**  
**See listing below!**

## ***Upcoming Local Events & Seminars***

**Thursday October 16, 2008**

**Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School**

**Conference Room B**

**7:00-9:00 PM**

***College Planning for those with Attention or Learning Differences etc.***

Presented by Renee Goldberg, Ed.D.,  
Certified Educational Planner and

Marvin Goldberg, MSW Educational Options, LLC

Cost: FREE

Registration not required.

Sponsored by the Lincoln-Sudbury Special Education Advisory Council (LS-SEAC)

Applying to college can be a stressful and demanding process for both students and parents. Students with ADD and learning disabilities must begin the process earlier to achieve positive results. This workshop will outline the necessary steps and focus on encouraging self-advocacy and student involvement.

Dr. Goldberg founded Educational Options, LLC in 1994, with a special interest in students with learning disabilities and students with AD/HD. The Goldbergs travel extensively visiting colleges, boarding schools and emotional growth programs nationally in order to become more aware of changes and developments and to provide the most up-to-date information to their clients.

Visit [www.sseac.org](http://www.sseac.org) for directions.

**Thursday, October 16, 2008**

**King Administration Building**

**454 Water Street**

**Framingham 01701-7670**

**7:00-9:00pm**

***MCAS for kids with special needs: accommodations, alternatives, & resources.***

Presented by Courtney Rau - Special Ed Dept. Chair, Qualters Middle School, Mansfield

Cost: FREE

Registration not required.

Sponsored by Framingham Special Education Parent Advisory Council.

Visit [www.f-sepac.org](http://www.f-sepac.org) for additional information and directions.

**Saturday, October 25, 2008**

**Children's Hospital Boston at Waltham, 9 Hope Avenue, Waltham**

**10:30 am-12:00 Noon**

**Federation for Children with Special Needs**

***Basic Rights Seminar***

This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.

*To register for this workshop please email:*

*[epilepsyconference@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:epilepsyconference@childrens.harvard.edu)*

**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**

**Indian Meadows, Westborough, MA**

**9:30 am - 3 pm**

**Massachusetts Family-to-Family Health Information Center, a project of Mass Family Voices at the Federation**

**JOINING VOICES CONFERENCE**, an annual conference to support families in advocating for children & youth with special health care needs including mental, behavioral, emotional needs. REGISTRATION & CONFERENCE BROCHURE -

<http://massfamilyvoices.org/>

Registration Deadline Friday October 24, 2008

Dr. Charles Homer, CEO of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ), will give the keynote address. He will discuss a vision for a higher quality health care system for

children, including children and youth with special health care needs, and how parents can help realize that vision. There will be time for general and topic-specific (transition, parent/professional partnerships, parent-to-parent support, Rosie D implementation services, etc) networking. Afternoon workshops include skill-building sessions where families can learn strategies to advocate for needed medical services and supports for their children and youth with special health needs so they can be better advocates, make more informed decisions and more effectively partner in decision-making with health care providers, other providers, systems of care, and with policymakers.

This is a free day of learning and networking for families with children and youth with special healthcare needs (including mental, behavioral, emotional needs).

For more information, call the Family-to-Family Center at 1-800-331-0688, ext. 210, e-mail [massfv@fcsn.org](mailto:massfv@fcsn.org) or visit [www.massfamilyvoices.org](http://www.massfamilyvoices.org).

**Wednesday, November 5, 2008**

**Boston Marriot Newton  
2345 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton**

**7 pm**

**Advances in Early Identification of Autism Spectrum Disorders and New Research Findings**

**Presented by The Children's Hospital Boston Developmental Medicine Forum**

**Leonard Rappaport, MD, MS and Charles A. Neklson III, PhD.**

**Cost: FREE**

For more information, contact Rosetta Mojahed (617) 355-1933

**Thursday, November 6, 2008**

**SNCARC**

**789 Clapboardtree Street**

**Westwood**

**IEP Clinic**

Providing an opportunity to schedule a free 45 minute appointment with an Educational Advocate (if you do not presently work with one) to review your child's IEP. Appointments scheduled on first come-first served basis with priority given to those families who are served through the SCNARC Family Support Program or the Family Autism Center.

To schedule an appointment, please contact Tessa at 781-762-4001, ext. 303

**Wednesday, November 12, 2008**

**Charles River Center (formerly, Arc)**

**59 E. Militia Heights Road**

**Needham**

**6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

***After the Diagnosis: Taking Care of Yourself and Your Family***

**Marianne Fougere, LICSW &**

**Michael Mancusi, LICSW, BCD**

**Counseling Collaborative**

**LADDERS Program/ Parent Lecture Series**

**Cost: \$5**

**Limited childcare slots available by pre-registration only**

**To register, contact Julie O'Brien at 781-860-1726**

**For directions, visit [www.crarc.org](http://www.crarc.org)**

**Thursday, November 13, 2008**

**Canton High School**

**900 Washington Street, Canton**

**7-9 pm**

**Federation for Children with Special Needs**

***Basic Rights Seminar***

This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals

with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child.

**Tuesday, November 18, 2008**

**Hopkinton High School**

**7:00-9:00 pm**

**Sarah Ward**

***Executive Function Disorder***

Co- Sponsored by the Milford Parent Advisory Council and Hopkinton Parent Advisory Council

Executive Function is a term used to describe difficulties associated with goal setting, carrying out organized steps and modifying a plan to complete a task successfully.

Cost: FREE

**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

**Westwood Administration Building**

**Professional Development Room**

**7-9pm**

**The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

**"MCAS"**

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System is a tool to measure progress in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks or general curriculum. This workshop will help parents understand how their children with disabilities can participate in a meaningful way in MCAS. It will discuss accommodations and alternate assessments available so that students can demonstrate what they have learned. Sponsored by Westwood SEPAC.

### ***Family Portrait Fundraiser***

The Westwood Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is proud to once again sponsor its annual ***Family Portrait Fundraiser*** on Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 1-5pm, and Sunday, November 2, 2008 from 9-5pm. The Fundraiser will be held at the South Norfolk County ARC, 789 Clapboardtree St., Westwood. Real Life Arts Photography will take studio quality portraits which can be purchased for use as holiday cards, or as part of specially designed portrait packages. Proceeds from this fundraiser will help to support scholarships for graduating seniors with disabilities. For more information, please see [www.reallifearts.com](http://www.reallifearts.com), or email [pams31@verizon.net](mailto:pams31@verizon.net).

### ***New from the Legislature and MDESE***

#### ***Transition Planning to Begin at Age 14 in Massachusetts***

Under federal law (IDEA 2004), transition planning must take place for the student who is 15 years of age and, if needed, the IEP Team must include appropriate goals related to postsecondary training, education, employment, and independent living skills in the student's IEP.

On August 6, 2008, Massachusetts passed legislation stating that **transition planning must begin when the student is 14 years of age**. Accordingly, beginning when the eligible student is 14, the school district must plan for the student's need for transition services and the school district must document this discussion annually.

The Department expects districts to conduct training as needed and to initiate transition planning for all 14 year olds eligible for special education during the course of the 2008-2009 school year. Therefore, by the end of this school year all students with disabilities aged 14 years or older should have a completed Transition Planning Form that will be updated annually.

For further information, link to this technical advisory:  
([http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/09\\_1ta.html#1](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/09_1ta.html#1))

### ***Services for Young Children with Disabilities, Ages Five and Six, in Preschool Programs***

On August 7, 2008, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (MDESE) issued an advisory relative to school district practices regarding young children with disabilities in preschool programs.

Public preschool programs that serve children with disabilities are required to be "developmentally appropriate and specially designed for children ages three and four years." On occasion, parents and school personnel discuss whether or not children who are five and will turn six years of age would benefit from remaining in the preschool program for an additional year. For children without disabilities, if the parents and the district agree such an action is appropriate, the child remains in the public school preschool program. However, if the child has a disability and is found eligible for special education, the district has been required to seek permission from the MDESE, with assistance from the Department of Early Education and Care, to allow the child to remain in the preschool program for an additional year.

Upon reviewing their procedures, the MDESE has determined that this practice is not required. Therefore, as of the 2008-2009 school year, it shall be up to the child's IEP Team to determine if an additional year of preschool is appropriate. Review and approval will not be required from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or from the Department of Early Education and Care.

For further information, link to this administrative advisory:  
([http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/09\\_1.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/advisories/09_1.html))

<p><b><i>Local Activities</i></b></p>
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Come Play Soccer with Dedham Park and Recreation. Soccer Program open to individuals with Special Needs ages 6-25. You do not have to live in Dedham to participate. Bring the whole

family to cheer you on! When: Sunday mornings 9-11am October 5, 19, 26  
Where: Freitas Field, Rustcraft Road in Dedham (across from the Red Cross Building)  
Sal Ledda, Commissioner of The Dedham Park And Recreation Department, will run this program. Sal is also a well-known soccer coach with many years of experience  
Coffee and Donuts will be provided by Sal  
Although volunteers will be available to assist, parents are expected to stay and supervise  
You do not need to pre-register and there is no cost for this program so just come and have fun!  
Please wear comfortable clothing and sneakers

***Join SEPAC!!***

Visit our website at [www.westwoodsepac.org](http://www.westwoodsepac.org) and become a member!! Membership is free and voting privileges are afforded to all members whose children are on IEP's or 504 plans.

***Contact us concerning upcoming events or ideas for [The IEP](#) at [jennifer.maggiacomo@comcast.net](mailto:jennifer.maggiacomo@comcast.net)***