

Helpful Acronyms and Terminology

DOE: Department of Education

FAPE: **Free and Appropriate Public Education**, Special education standard for education services under federal law

IEP: **Individualized Education Plan**, A written plan specifying services a child will receive that identifies goals, objectives and learning styles

Inclusion: Educational model which includes both disabled and non-disabled children in one classroom

LRE: **Least Restrictive Environment**, Federal law provides for this program where children can be with nondisabled peers and receive special education services

OT: **Occupational Therapy**

PT: **Physical Therapy**

Notice of Procedural Safeguards: A brochure produced by the DOE which is designed to help you understand your school's procedures, rights, and special education evaluation and placement process

Team: A group of persons, who together discuss evaluation results, determine eligibility, develop or modify an IEP, or determine placement

Helpful Websites

The Federation for Children with Special Needs

<http://www.fcsn.org>

Wrights Law

<http://www.wrightslaw.com>

Massachusetts Department of Education

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/parents.html>

MASS PAC

<http://www.masspac.org>

Autism Resource Center of Central MA

<http://www.arccm.org>



Welcome to the

Northbridge Special Education

Parent Advisory Council



Northbridge Special Education

Parent Advisory Council

87 Linwood Avenue

Whitinsville, MA 01588

Email: npac@live.com

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vzey88fj/northbridgespedpac>

The Northbridge Public Schools assure that all programs, activities and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, homelessness and disability.

Our Mission

- To work toward nurturing a climate of understanding, respect, and appropriate support and education for all children with special needs
- To advise the school district on matters relating to the education and safety of students with disabilities
- To meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district's special education programs
- To conduct workshops; promote the education of parent/guardians, students, and the community on issues of special education rights and services
- To create a presence in the school district promoting family to family networking and support.



Meetings

The N.P.A.C. typically meets on the second Thursday of the month. Contact the Special Education Department for location and times.

Membership

Membership is encouraged and open to all Northbridge residents who are parents and/or guardians of a student (attending school within or outside the school district), any resident with an interest in the Northbridge Parent Advisory Council and all staff of NPS. Students are eligible to become members of the N.P.A.C. upon reaching the age of fourteen years, or earlier upon a family/guardians request (detailing the student's level of maturity and capability of participation). There is no cost associated with becoming a member.

Officers

Chairperson: Kathy Lyons
email: kathyl1@verizon.net

Co-Secretary: Dawn Perkins
email: dmp Perkins0530@msn.com

Vice Chairperson: Jeff Travers
email: jefft.esq@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Teresa Phaneuf
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Special Education Dept. Contacts

Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Cathy Stanton 508-234-8156

Administrative Assistant
Nicolena Gangai (508) 234-8120 or (508) 234-8156

Clerk
Lois Bartolini (508) 234-8120

Team Chairpersons

Preschool – Grade 2		
Michael Morasse, M.Ed.	NES	508-234-6346 x 2306
	BAL	508-234-8161 x 2107
Grade 3 – Grade 6		
Cathy Robinson	BAL	508-234-8161 x 2107
	NMS	508-234-8120
Grade 7 - Grade 12		
Carol Nelson M.Ed.	NMS	508-234-8120
	NHS	508-234-6221 x 5113