

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Q: What is a Parent Advisory Committee?

A: [MARSE](#), the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education, describes the composition and the purpose of the parent advisory committee in Section 7. The main purpose of a parent advisory committee is to provide a formal mechanism for parent input into the [ISD Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services](#).

Q: Does the MAISD have a Parent Advisory Committee?

A: Yes. MAISD's Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SEPAC) is composed of parents/guardians of children with disabilities. Members are nominated by their local school board and approved by the MAISD Board of Education.

The SEPAC strives to represent the interests and concerns of students with special needs and their parents. It also strives to promote partnerships among parents, students the local school district and the MAISD by facilitating communication and cooperation.

For more information, review the [SEPAC Brochure](#).

Q: What do SEPAC members do?

A: SEPAC members receive training in the special education process in order to serve in an advisory capacity to parents/guardians of children with disabilities.

Training is done monthly at SEPAC meetings on such topics as the referral process, parent consent, the IEP meeting, procedural safeguards, and discipline of students with disabilities..

Members have also worked on projects such as the creation of a DVD that explains the special education process, a resource fair where organizations provide information about services, and annual workshops that provide information about assistive technology available to children with disabilities.

Q: How do I contact SEPAC members for assistance?

A: Use the [SEPAC Brochure](#) listing to find your district representative. If your district currently does not have a representative, you are encouraged to contact one of the at-large members.

Q: When does the SEPAC meet?

A: SEPAC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month except for July and December. Meetings are open to the public. [SEPAC Meeting Calendar](#) for 2011-2012.

► **For More Information** about the SEPAC contact the MAISD Assistant Director of Special Education at 231-767-7251.