



## About Us

The State of Massachusetts mandates that each school district have a parent advisory council to facilitate communication between parents and administrators. The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (Sped PAC) plays a vital role in supporting special education services in the public schools and in supporting families and their special needs children.

Sped PAC membership is open to all parents of children with special needs and other interested parties. All are welcome to attend our monthly Sped PAC meetings held at monthly, alternating mornings and evenings. They are always held the second Thursday of every month. Please see The Grafton News for locations monthly, or contact PAC Officers.

### Sped PAC Duties

Sped PAC advises the School Committee on matters related to the education, health and safety of students with special needs. We meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the School Committee's special education programs. Our activities include:

- Outreach and Support for new and established families of special needs children
- Referral network and Individual Education Plan (IEP) assistance from parent mentors
- Resource to parents and meeting forum for reporting parent concerns to school staff and officials
- Working directly with the School Committee and Special Education Director to improve our special education needs and goals
- Host workshops related to special needs interests and concerns
- Resource for informative websites
- Fundraising for parent workshops and other related special needs
- Special section of resource material is available at the main branch of the Grafton Public Library, children's section
- Survey special needs community for quality assurance of IEP's

### Sped PAC Officers and Consultants

Chair, Laura Deneen  
[laura.deneen@sunlife.com](mailto:laura.deneen@sunlife.com)  
 508-839-9922

Secretary, Mary Gilgallon  
[mary@keycommunicationsgroup.com](mailto:mary@keycommunicationsgroup.com)  
 508-839-8867

Treasurer, Peggy Forbes  
[peggy1203@verizon.net](mailto:peggy1203@verizon.net)  
 508-839-0598

Special Education Director, Donna Dias thru 8/08  
 Kathy Baris after 8/08  
 508-839-5468

### Parent Resources

Federation for Children with Special Needs  
 508-798-0531

Department of Education  
 781-388-3300

Family Ties of Massachusetts/Mass Dept. Public Health  
 508-947-1231, 800-905-TIES

To join Grafton SPEDPAC discussion group, please sign up at [graftonspedpac@yahoogroups.com](mailto:graftonspedpac@yahoogroups.com)

To join the Grafton Parent K-12 discussion group, please sign up at [graftonk12parentgroup@yahoogroups.com](mailto:graftonk12parentgroup@yahoogroups.com)

To learn more on events, meeting minutes, and links to websites and articles, visit [www.graftonspedpac.org](http://www.graftonspedpac.org)