



Georgetown

SEPAC

Parent Welcome Packet

2019-2020



## *Welcome !*

We are the Georgetown SEPAC and we welcome you to the Georgetown Public Schools 2019-20 school year! We know how disorienting it can be to experience both expected and unexpected change. We want you to know we are here to support you as you transition into, and journey through the Georgetown special education system.

SEPAC, Special Education Parent Advisory Council, is comprised of parents, guardians, and caretakers working together to better the lives of our students with learning, behavioral, or physical challenges. Our mission is to work for the understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with academic, as well as physical, emotional, or social challenges in our community. We meet monthly to provide support information and educational resources as well as advise the special education administration and other school officials, in order to be a collaborative member of the special education team as well as promote and encourage understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of children that are neurodiverse.

Maybe your child has difficulty making friends, loses focus easily, has physical challenges, or is developmentally delayed. There are countless reasons why a student might need specialized instruction in reading, writing, social skills, speech and physical education, for example. In turn, parents feel powerless, isolated, confused, surprised, or overwhelmed. If your child has a special need, we want to reassure you that you are not alone and that many of us felt or still feel those same emotions. If you need an ally in your quest to provide your child with what he/she needs, you may want to become involved with SEPAC.

Our children collectively face a set of unique challenges. Whatever you are experiencing as a family, we are here if you need an ear, recommendations, guidance, or even a good laugh.

Please consider coming to one of our parent support groups or our monthly SEPAC meetings (dates and times will be announced via email, Facebook, and with the school administration.)

Please visit our Facebook page Georgetown SEPAC, or visit our website:  
<https://georgetownsepac.wixsite.com/sepac> .

We are eager to befriend, to support, and to help your child flourish.

Sincerely,  
Your SEPAC Board



## 2019-2020

Not sure where to start? We invite you to come to one of our meetings, contact us by email, or visit our Facebook page. We look forward to meeting you and helping to support you and your child!

**Joanie Desilets and Krissy Berg**  
Co-Chair

**Jenn Harrell**  
Treasurer

**Carol Deluca**  
Fundraising Chair

**Jessica Vasilenko**  
Co-Secretary

**Email:**

[georgetown.ma.sepac@gmail.com](mailto:georgetown.ma.sepac@gmail.com)

**Find us on Facebook!**

**Georgetown SEPAC**

# YOU ARE AN EXPERT



“Listen to us. We’re the experts.” Doctors, therapists, social workers, educators – with their degrees and expertise, they may make you feel like your role in any discussion is merely to nod your head and sign off on their suggestions. ♦ ♦ ♦ But you’re an expert, too. They may know everything about most children or the average child, but you know everything about the child in question. You have an advanced degree in raising your child, a textbook’s worth of knowledge about his or her specific and individual needs and habits and progress and struggles. ♦ ♦ ♦ Because every child is different and differences determine treatment, yours is the most important voice in any discussion. There’s no specialist more special than you. ♦ ♦ ♦

# ONLINE RESOURCES

## **Federation for Children with Special Needs**

<https://fcsn.org/>

Supports families whose children have special educational needs and special healthcare needs, as well as families of culturally and economically underserved populations by promoting family engagement within general education. There are five “Centers” by the primary type of service offered to families, and are listed below:

- **Special Education Parent Center**
- **Family Support Center**
- **Health Advocacy Center**
- **Family and Community Engagement Center**
- **Parent-Professional Leadership Center**

## **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/>

Helps families to explore different school options and individual districts, learn more about supports for English language learners and students with disabilities, become familiar with statewide testing and graduation requirements, and find resources to help students in elementary, middle, high school, and beyond.

## **Wrightslaw**

<https://www.wrightslaw.com/>

Parents, educators, advocates, and attorneys come to Wrightslaw for accurate, reliable information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

## **Understood**

[Understood.org](https://www.understood.org)

A very user friendly site that hosts a wealth of invaluable information including personalized resources, free daily access to experts, a secure online community, practical tips and more. Also does a great job breaking down the Ins and Outs of Special Education and Special Ed law.

# Georgetown SEPAC

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Fall 2019

#### SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 9/25/19

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

#### Meet & Greet with Jack Tiano

#### Basic Rights Training

Come meet the Director of Special Education & Student Services

Mr. Tiano will be offering a workshop on the Basic Rights of Special Education. This is a great opportunity for families both new to Special Ed as well as seasoned veterans to brush up on the ins and outs of Special Ed Law.

Penn Brook Library (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

68 Elm St. Georgetown

#### OCTOBER

Saturday 10/19/19 (rain date 10/20/19)

2:30 pm-5:00 PM

#### SEPAC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trick or Trunk

Come join us for our most celebrated event of the year. Participants decorate their vehicle trunks and pass out candy and treats to Trick or Treaters as they pass by.

Snacks and beverages are available, with donations welcome. Come in costume!!

Penn Brook School

68 Elm St. Georgetown

#### NOVEMBER

Wednesday 11/6/19

6:00 PM-7:30 PM

#### Parent Support Group

Do you have a child with Special Education needs? Do you think your child may have learning, behavioral or social/emotional issues? Please join us for a casual meet-up to connect with other people in the Special Education Community. Please

RSVP to [georgetown.ma.sepac@gmail.com](mailto:georgetown.ma.sepac@gmail.com)