

Parent Groups in New Jersey

A Guide to Developing & Conducting an Effective Group

QUICK FACTS

What are the results of an Effective Special Education Parent Advisory Group? (SEPAG)

Effective SEPAGS offer the chance to give feedback to district leadership. They can turn the needs of students into direct strategies for change. The results can benefit many students, their families, and the school system.



Results for School Districts

- **Enhanced** communication and relationships with families of students with disabilities
- Decision-making that aligns with the **Needs and Priorities** of students and families
- **Higher Quality** of special education program offerings for students with disabilities
- Ability to better meet the **Diverse Needs** of students with disabilities and their families

Results for Students

- Development of **Self-Advocacy** and **Self-Determination** skills
- Opportunity to share their views and help **Make Decisions**
- **Higher Expectations** of what they can achieve academically and what will happen after school
- Improved special education programs and services that reflect the **Evidenced Needs** of students
- Fostering of **Independence** appropriate to individual skills and abilities

Results for Families

- Greater **Understanding** of the special education process and the roles families play, opportunity to:
 - Share **Ideas and Concerns** with administrators about special education programs
 - Connect with other families and build **Relationships**
 - Suggest **Improvements** to special education programs and services for students with disabilities in the district and community.
- Development of:
 - **Positive Interactions** with staff and administration
 - Skills and knowledge as **Effective Leaders and Advocates** for school improvement
 - **Effective Collaboration** between parents and school



A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement.



Access the SPAN SEPAG Guide



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