

What is WePAC?

We are a group of parents/caregivers and educators making an effort to understand, respect, and support appropriate education for all children with special needs in our community.

What do we do?

The WePAC is mandated by state law and its duties include, but are not limited to:

- advising the district on matters that pertain to the education and safety of students with differing abilities
- meeting regularly with school officials
- to participate in the planning, development, and evaluation of the school district's special education programs.

The mission of the WePAC is to work for understanding of, respect for, and support of all children with special needs in the community.

WePAC has addressed issues dealing with:

- Bullying
- IEP vs. 504 FAQs
- Special Olympics
- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Basic Rights Workshop
- Family Ties — Let's Get Organized
- ADHD Workshop
- IEEs

In the future, WePAC plans to address:

- Future Estate Planning—Part 2
- Sensory Integration
- ADHD and Co-morbid Disorders

FAQs about IEPs

(Individualized Education Programs/Plans)

1. My child has been found eligible for special education. What happens next?

The next step is to write what is known as an Individualized Education Program (IEP). A meeting must be held within 30 days to develop the IEP.

2. What is an IEP?

An IEP is a written statement of the educational program designed to meet a child's individual needs. Every child who receives special education services must have an IEP.

3. What type of information is included in an IEP?

According to IDEA your child's IEP must include specific statements about your child. The statements are listed here:

- **Present levels of educational performance.** This statement describes how your child is currently doing in school.
- **Annual Goals.** The IEP must state what you and the school team think he or she can reasonably accomplish in a year.

- **Special education and related services to be provided.** The IEP must list the special education and related services to be provided to your child.
- **Participation with non-disabled children.** How much of the school day will your child be educated separately from non-disabled children or not participate in extracurricular or other non-academic activities such as lunch or clubs.
- **Participation in state and district-wide assessments.** The IEP team must decide what modifications your child needs and list them in the IEP.
- **Dates and location.** The IEP must state: when services and modifications will begin; how often they will be provided; where they will be provided; and how long they will last.
- **Transition services.** If your child is age 14, the IEP must include a statement of his or her transition service needs. Transition planning will help your child move through school.
- **Measuring progress.** The IEP must state how the school personnel will measure your child's progress toward the annual goals.

WePAC Meetings

The WePAC meets each month, usually on the 3rd Tuesday, at 6:30pm.

Topics and Meeting Places to be announced.

Meetings will usually take place at the WES (Westport Elementary School).

WePAC Meetings are subject to Open Meeting Rules. Task forces/subcommittees and support groups are not subject to the Open Meeting Rules. Task forces/subcommittees and support groups will be scheduled according to the interests of the WePAC members.

Visit our website for meeting information

www.westportschools.org/District/wepac.htm

Sign up to receive our group updates at Yahoo! Groups

groups.yahoo.com/group/WePAC/

Or please contact Kelly or Julie via email

Kelly Kellyjcpelletier@aol.com
Julie tnbjr@msn.com

Contact WePAC

Come to the WePAC meetings and share your resources and knowledge with other families.

Most members attending are parents of students at Macomber and Westport Elementary. We would love to have parents from the Middle and High Schools join us...

WePAC is open to families, friends, and teachers of Westport and the surrounding communities. This includes families with children placed "out of district" as well as children on 504 plans.

WePAC Officers

Co-chairs:

**Kelly Pelletier
Dawn Francoeur**

Secretary:

**** VACANCY ****

Treasurer:

Julie Reitzas

**Office of Special Education
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WePAC

We care about our children.

Westport's Parent Advisory Committee for Special Education

