



Manchester **SEPTA** Committee

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Our mission:

A collaboration of parents, teachers, and community who have come together to form a voice for all children with special needs in the Manchester school system.

Following information is found at CT PTA:

<http://www.ctpta.org/SEPTA/WHAT-IS-A-SEPTA.html>

WHAT IS A SEPTA?

- Special Education Parent Teacher Association
- SEPTA is a PTA within a school district. SEPTA brings together people who are interested in special education and children with special needs.
- SEPTA supports, strengthens and promotes the welfare of children with special needs.
- SEPTA promotes an understanding of special education and strives to enrich the lives of children with special needs.

ARE THE GOALS OF SEPTA?

- To ensure that all children receive an education that allows them to reach their full potential.
- To bring together parents, families and teachers of children with special needs in order to share their experiences.
- To educate parents about special education, including the identification and placement procedures for children with special needs.
- To inform legislators, school boards, and the community about the importance of special education programs.
- To improve the lives of children by providing cultural, social and physical enrichment.
- To advocate for children with special needs and their right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

WHO ARE SEPTA MEMBERS?

- Anyone that has an interest in the welfare of children with special needs.
- Parents, families, teachers, school administrators, students, friends.
- Membership is open to all.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT SEPTA?

- Join a SEPTA
- Attend meetings
- Participate in programs
- Volunteer your time
- GET INVOLVED!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- If you suspect your child has a disability that interferes with learning, you can ask to have your child tested by your school district at no cost to you. You can do this even if your child does not attend public school.
- You can see your child's school records and get a copy of the school records at no cost to you. If your child's school records contain incorrect or misleading information, you can ask to have the information corrected.
- When your child is evaluated for special education, the school must explain the tests your child has been given. If you disagree with the school's evaluation, you can ask for additional testing or an independent evaluation at no cost to you.
- You must be treated as a full and equal member of your child's Planning and Placement Team (PPT). You should be included in every decision about your child's special education.
- If you disagree with decisions about your child's special education, you have many rights, including the right to mediation and due process.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!