

# WHAT IS A SEPAG?

(Special Education Parent Advisory Group)

*A Special Education Parent Advisory Group is a parent-driven group that works with the local school district to share ideas and feedback about special education and related services. Every school district in New Jersey is required to have one.*



## Purpose and Function

A SEPAG gives families a direct way to shape the programs, policies, and services that affect students with disabilities.

When parents are invited to share their perspectives, districts can plan more effectively and respond to real community needs.

## How SEPAGs are Organized

Each district's SEPAG is unique. Members decide how often to meet, how leadership is chosen, and what their priorities will be.

SEPAGs can include parents, caregivers, educators, and community members - anyone committed to improving special education services in their schools.

## SEPAGs can:

- Improve outcomes and well-being for all students, including those with disabilities.
- Help the district better understand unmet needs.
- Strengthen how programs and supports are developed.
- Build a positive, inclusive school culture.

## What makes a SEPAG special?

SEPAGs are different from other parent groups because they're...

- **parent-driven:** families guide the work and the discussions in partnership with their school district.
- **advisory:** discussions focus on system-level improvements, not individual ones.
- **inclusive:** representation and ideas from all families are valuable.