



Concord Public and Concord-Carlisle Regional Schools Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) June 2016 Newsletter

Wishing you a happy summer vacation!

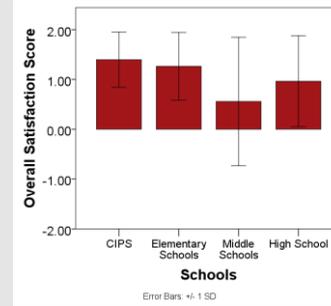
As we wrap up a successful 2015-2016 academic year, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer vacation! Thank you for helping to make this year a productive one for the SEPAC! From monthly networking groups for our families with children who are in out-of-district placements, the construction of a hardworking preschool committee, the distribution of our first biennial survey, and the addition of our dedicated group of school liaisons, this has been a busy year. We are excited for next year and hope to see you at our June 3rd SEPAC meeting as we nominate and vote on the 2016-2017 board.

Superintendent screening committee will include SEPAC representative.

We would like to thank the School Committee for recognizing the unique perspective that a parent/guardian of a child with special needs could bring to the search process! We are excited for this opportunity to represent our children's and families' needs on this committee.

And the results are... Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent survey and to the administration, teachers, therapists, and staff for all that they do to support our children! We recently presented our results to the School Committee. We had 145 people respond to our 11-question survey. Results showed:

- High overall levels of satisfaction with special education services.
- More emphasis needs to be placed on improving communication and supports in the middle schools and the high school.



For results broken down by question, please visit our website (concordsepac.org) or email (concordsepac@gmail.com).



Science Alert: Sensory experiences affect autism spectrum condition within the classroom.

As most parents of children with sensory needs know, children behave differently in a variety of environments. Recent research* in the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders* corroborated this anecdotal evidence by surveying 16 adolescents (between the 12-17 years old) in a mainstream school. Results demonstrated differential sensitivity to sensory information, with most children being sensitive to noise. Some participants reported that being in an environment with uncomfortable sensory information resulted in increased fatigue, discomfort, and/or anxiety. This research demonstrates the need to examine each child's sensory profile when setting goals to take into account the unique impact different sensory information has on each child. Environments should be tailored to take into account sensory information (e.g., noise, visual information, intense smells, etc) to elicit more successful behaviors and less distress.

*Howe & Stagg (2016). How sensory experiences affect adolescents with an autism spectrum condition within the classroom. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. doi: 10.1007/s10803-015-2693-1

Upcoming Events.



The next **SEPAC meeting** will be held on Thursday, June 3rd, from 12:30-2 P.M. in the Fowler Branch Library. **We will be voting on the 2016-2017 SEPAC board during this meeting.** To review the Agenda, please visit concordsepac.org. All SEPAC meetings are open to the public. We encourage parents and caregivers of children on IEPs, receiving accommodations (e.g., 504 plan), or with any medical or special need to attend.



If you are a parent or guardian of a child with an out-of-district placement, please join us for our monthly informal networking group. Our next get-together will be on Saturday, June 18th, from 9-10:30 AM, at La Provence (105 Thoreau St, Concord).

CONNECT WITH US



Concord and Concord-Carlisle Regional Public Schools SEPAC



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UPCOMING EVENTS

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

June 3: SEPAC Meeting
12:30-2 PM
Fowler Branch Library

June 18th: Out-of-District Networking Group
9-10:30 AM
La Provence, 105 Thoreau St, Concord

See you in the Fall!