



Oct 6, 2025

September SEPAC Meeting Recap!

Our September 26th meeting attracted many families to attend in person or via Google Meet. The session began with a presentation by Dr. Karen Schmukler, the Interim Deputy Superintendent for the Office of Student Services. Dr. Schmukler gave an extensive overview of PSB's special education services, programs, and administrative structure, including specialized offerings such as the RISE classroom and the Adaptive Learning Center (ALC). She also addressed individual concerns, touched on issues of disproportionality, and outlined new DESE regulations regarding IEP timelines. The school committee liaisons then provided updates on ongoing work, including the district's budget deficit and the transition in special education leadership, emphasizing the importance of selecting a strong candidate with both expertise and strong interpersonal skills.

The **agenda**, **slides**, and **recording** of the presentation can be found at:

<https://www.brooklinesepac.org/meetings>

Monthly Meetings

This year we will continue to host our monthly meetings in a hybrid fashion, both in person at the Town Hall, and virtually via Google Meet. All meetings will be held on Friday mornings, 8:30am-10am.

2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

- October 24, 2025
- November 14, 2025
- December 12, 2025

- January 23, 2025
- February 27, 2025
- March 27, 2025
- April 24, 2026
- May 22, 2026
- June 12, 2026

In addition to monthly meetings, we plan to host additional educational webinars, with outside speakers on topics that are helpful and relevant to our community. If you or someone you know is interested in a particular topic, please let us know! These will be in the evenings and recorded. Stay tuned for more info.

Subscribe to the Brookline SEPAC Events Google Calendar: [web](#), [iCal](#)

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New DESE Guidance on IEP Timeline

A [memo](#) was sent on September 26, 2025 to all families with children receiving services from the OSS, with the following message from Dr. Karen Schmukler:

“DESE has recently clarified districts' obligations under this regulatory requirement in this [advisory](#). As described, schools must provide two copies of the proposed IEP, proposed placement, and required notice to parents/guardians immediately following the development of the IEP. This must be done within 45 school working days after the district's receipt of the parent/guardian's written consent to an initial evaluation or reevaluation. In this context, the Department defines the term ‘immediately’ as occurring within 45-school working days and no later than 5 school days after the team meeting.

*The district will be returning to the practice of using **draft IEP's** for all annual meetings. The draft IEP will be sent to parents at least 2 days prior to the IEP meeting. The draft is simply a working document to help guide our discussion and ensure we make the best use of our time together.*

Please know that:

- *The draft is not a final plan.*
- *No decisions have been made in advance.*
- *The IEP will only be finalized after the full team, including you, has reviewed and discussed your child's needs.*
- *Your input is essential, and any part of the draft can be changed during the meeting.*
- *The IEP that parents leave the meeting with will reflect the decisions made at the meeting as a team.*

Please do not hesitate to reach out to your team facilitator or special education director should you have any questions or concerns.”

We are planning a presentation on the IEP process and timeline during an upcoming monthly SEPAC meeting. Please stay tuned.

BSEA Monthly Informational Session 10/7

Mediators at the Massachusetts Bureau of Special Education Appeals ([BSEA](#)) are offering [monthly informational zoom presentations](#) on [BSEA mediation and facilitation](#), exploring how mediation at BSEA works, for example, when and how to request mediation, when mediation is appropriate, how to prepare, and who should participate. The next upcoming sessions are tomorrow 10/7 at 12-1pm ([zoom link](#)) and 7-8pm ([zoom link](#)).

Families can also reach out to BSEA individually, even if you are not sure mediation is the right next step. Mediators can answer questions, discuss options, and help clarify the process when disagreements arise between families and school districts.

BSEA Mediation Team Contacts:

Coordinator of Mediation

Myrto Flessas - 857-260-4541 - myrto.flessas@mass.gov

Western MA & Boston

Archie Archibald - 857-294-0162 - steven.archibald@mass.gov

Northwest Metro Boston Suburbs:

Leslie Bock - 857-378-6707 - leslie.bock@mass.gov

Southwest Metro Boston Suburbs:

Beth Ross - 617-997-2343 - beth.ross@mass.gov

SEPAC Liaisons

We are still looking for liaisons for the school year, especially for **Driscoll, Lawrence, and Pierce Schools** where we have none. Please contact us at info@brooklinesepac.org if interested. Time commitment is minimal and responsibilities are self-directed. Check out the [bylaws](#) for the basics of liaisons.

Get in Touch

Join our [Facebook Group](#) and [Google Discussion Group](#) to connect with other members and share your insights into special education!

Contact us at info@brooklinesepac.org or read more at brooklinesepac.org!