



*Offering for the First Time*  
Special Education Advocacy  
Training for Parents & Professionals  
**Build Your SPED Toolbox**

This course is a series of seminars that will teach you all the laws and advocacy processes for advancing your knowledge and skills. Each seminar builds upon every element of the rights and responsibilities of students, parents, and school districts.

featuring

***Attorney Tere Ramos***

September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25

7-9pm

at Mountview Middle School

270 Shrewsbury Street, Holden, MA

Cost: \$25 for the series and pre-registration is required!

See seminar topics on reverse side. Participants will receive a binder and copies of all workshop materials.

*Please send registration form below and check made payable to Wachusett SEPAC:*

Wachusett SEPAC, WRSD, 1745 Main Street, Jefferson, MA 01522

*Email confirmation will be sent on or before September 13th.*

---

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Seminar Topics

**Basic rights-** A workshop designed for both families who are new to special education, or seasoned advocates looking to deepen their knowledge of procedural rights. This presentation provides an introduction to rights under IDEA and under the Massachusetts Special Education law. We will also touch upon other important laws that intersect special education services, such as Section 504, the ADA, and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

**Writing IEPs for Success-** An IEP is the most important element of a child's special education program. There is no effective progress without an effective IEP. While there are many ways to write an IEP, it is important to understand the document and all of its components in order to write it well. During this session we will focus on learning how to develop all portions of the IEP in a manner that is legally correct and educationally meaningful.

**Transition-** Children in MA receiving special education services begin transition services at age 14. Transition is an ongoing process of determining a student's needs, preferences, and interests as they relate to the demands of current and post-secondary settings, such as work, home, school, and social environments. This workshop will explain the legal requirements districts have to ensure a student has a successful transition that meets the adult needs for further education, employment, and full participation in the community.

**Bullying-** This workshop will explain in detail MA's bullying law. In addition to providing information to parents as to the school's reporting and investigation requirements we will discuss advocacy tools and strategies to protect children against bullying.

**Discipline-** Traditional exclusionary "consequences" –, in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions and expulsion – have the unintended result of removing the most academically at-risk students from the classroom. The discipline law is one of the difficult areas for parents to understand and advocate on behalf of their children. This workshop will explain in detail the discipline law in MA and all of its sections, from serious crimes to minor infractions that break school behavioral codes. Parents will learn about due process rights, how to prepare for a manifestation determination, and how to appeal a district's suspension or expulsion.

**Restraints-** This workshop will review new regulations governing the use of restraint, seclusion and timeout in Massachusetts public, day and residential schools, which include new definitions, prohibited practices, and new training and reporting requirements. We will discuss best practices and we will focus on how to ensure districts follow the new regulations.

**Community Services-** Parents often focus their advocacy on their behalf at schools. But did you know your child also has rights, anywhere from after school activities, summer camps, the local pool, even in restaurants! Under the American with Disabilities Act, both public and private entities must provide reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Come learn how to have your child included in the community!