



The Massachusetts special education law, [Chapter 71B1](#) of the Massachusetts General Laws, requires a school district to establish a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and assigns both an advisory and participatory function to the PAC. A school district is required to demonstrate that it has established a PAC upon request of the Department. When the Public School Monitoring office conducts a Tiered Monitoring Review to monitor and review a school district's compliance with special education regulations, it checks to confirm that a SEPAC is operating. If no SEPAC is established, the Department requires that the district establishes a SEPAC.

As outlined in the [Guidance for Special Education Parent Advisory Councils](#)⁴, the SEPAC must offer membership to all parents of students found eligible for special education in the district, as well as other interested parties. The SEPAC is authorized to provide advice to the district regarding special education programs and policies. Additionally, the SEPAC is authorized to meet with designated school officials and to engage in activities which enable the SEPAC to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the district's special education programs.

During our most recent Tiered Monitoring the BRCPS school districts was found to not have an established and active SEPAC. While the district has made a number of efforts to establish an active SEPAC the district has not been successful. As a result the district will presented the Department with evidence of efforts to create a SEPAC but with minimal to no response suggesting that there is an interest for participation in the SEPAC. Boston Renaissance school district intends to submit a completed waiver application to the Department (PRS-compliance@deo.mass.edu),

Boston Renaissance School District has chosen the option to **Provide A Series of District Level Parent Training and Participation Events**: The Conditions for School Effectiveness (CSE) articulates what schools need to have in place in order to educate their students well; including Family Engagement. [The Conditions for School Effectiveness Self-Assessment](#) has been designed as a tool that can be used as a benchmark in which districts can gauge their practice in key areas. In an effort to implement the Conditions for School Effectiveness in the area of Family Engagement, BRCPS district intends to annually provide opportunities for parents of students with disabilities to participate in at least three district level activities and trainings specifically designed for parents of students with disabilities. Boston Renaissance school districts intends to document these opportunities and develop a process for monitoring the effectiveness of these activities. The monitoring process will include a method for collecting feedback from participating parents such as surveys, question and answer session and or ratings etc. . This feedback will be used to develop meaningful activities for parents in an effort to increase interest and membership in a SEPAC.

Thanks

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