

# Helpful Acronyms and Terminology

**DOE:** Department of Education

**FAPE: Free and Appropriate Public Education,** Special education standard for education services under federal law

**IEP: Individualized Education Plan,** A written plan specifying services a child will receive that identifies goals, objectives and learning styles

**Inclusion:** Educational model which includes both disabled and non-disabled children in one classroom

**LRE: Least Restrictive Environment,** Federal law provides for this program where children can be with nondisabled peers and receive special education services

**OT: Occupational Therapy**

**PT: Physical Therapy**

**Notice of Procedural Safeguards:** A brochure produced by the DOE which is designed to help you understand your school's procedures, rights, and special education evaluation and placement process

**Team:** A group of persons, who together discuss evaluation results, determine eligibility, develop or modify an IEP, or determine placement

## Helpful Websites

**The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

<http://www.fcsn.org>

**Wrights Law**

<http://www.wrightslaw.com>

**Massachusetts Department of Education**

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/parents.html>

**MASS PAC**

<http://www.masspac.org>

**Autism Resource Center of Central MA**

<http://www.arccm.org>



# Welcome to the Northbridge Special Education Parent Advisory Council



Northbridge Special Education

Parent Advisory Council

87 Linwood Avenue

Whitinsville, MA 01588

Email: [npac@live.com](mailto:npac@live.com)

<http://www.northbridgespedpac.org>

The Northbridge Public Schools assure that all programs, activities and employment opportunities are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, homelessness and disability.

## Our Mission

- To work toward nurturing a climate of understanding, respect, and appropriate support and education for all children with special needs
- To advise the school district on matters relating to the education and safety of students with disabilities
- To meet regularly with school officials to participate in the planning, development and evaluation of the school district's special education programs
- To conduct workshops; promote the education of parent/guardians, students, and the community on issues of special education rights and services
- To create a presence in the school district promoting family to family networking and support.



## Meetings

The N.P.A.C. typically meets on the second Thursday of the month. Contact the Special Education Department for location and times or check our website at

[www.northbridgespedpac.org](http://www.northbridgespedpac.org).

## Membership

Membership is encouraged and open to all Northbridge residents who are parents and/or guardians of a student (attending school within or outside the school district), any resident with an interest in the Northbridge Parent Advisory Council and all staff of NPS. Students are eligible to become members of the N.P.A.C. upon reaching the age of fourteen years, or earlier upon a family/guardians request (detailing the student's level of maturity and capability of participation). Educators & Administrators are encouraged to join as non-voting members. There is no cost associated with becoming a member.

## Officers

**Chairperson:** Kathy Lyons  
email: kathy1@verizon.net

**Secretary:** Debra Davis  
email: debrad1926@aol.com

**Vice Chairperson:** VACANT  
email:

**Treasurer:** Teresa Phaneuf  
email: tre2@charter.net

## Special Education Dept. Contacts

### Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Cathy Stanton 508-234-8156

### Administrative Assistant

Nicolena Gangai (508) 234-8120 or (508) 234-8156

### Clerk

Lois Bartolini (508) 234-8120

## Team Chairpersons

<b>Preschool – Grade 2</b>		
Michael Morasse, M.Ed.	NES	508-234-6346 x 2306
	BAL	508-234-8161 x 2107
<b>Grade 3 – Grade 6</b>		
Cathy Robinson	BAL	508-234-8161 x 2107
	NMS	508-234-8120
<b>Grade 7 - Grade 12</b>		
Carol Nelson M.Ed.	NMS	508-234-8120
	NHS	508-234-6221 x 5113