

# Andover Special Education Parent Advisory Council 2021-22 District Survey Results

SEPAC is open to all families with students that live in the District, regardless of school location and any individual with an interest in Special Education

# Survey Overview

- Survey goal was to obtain feedback on how the SEPAC can support Andover's Special Education community
  - Survey opened on May 26<sup>th</sup> 2022 and closed on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2022
- 184 Total Responses
  - 144 Parents/Guardians
  - 30 Teachers
  - 1 Administrator
  - 5 Service Providers
  - 4 "Other"

# Survey Overview (Demographics)

- Respondents were parents/guardians of students in: (APS statistics in red)
  - Elementary School (53%) (38%)
  - High School (29%) (27%)
  - Middle School (26%) (26%)
  - Preschool (11%) (5%)
  - Other (8%) (4%)
- 28% of respondents had students in particular SPED program, as follows:
  - 11% Language Based Program
  - 7% Bridge Program
  - 3% SAIL Program
  - 3% T3 Support
  - 2% Excel Program
  - 2% TOPS Program

# Survey Overview (Demographics)

## Disabilities Listed on Child's IEP

- 25% Specific Learning Disorder
- 20% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 11% Emotional
- 10% Developmental Delay
- 10% Communication
- 7% Neurological
- 6% Intellectual Disability
- 4% Health
- 1% Sensory/Vision Impaired or Blind
- 1% Physical Disability

## APS Statistics in Red

- 24% Specific Learning Disorder
- 17% Autism Spectrum Disorder
- 11% Emotional
- 10% Developmental Delay
- 18% Communication
- 4% Neurological
- 3% Intellectual Disability
- 15% Health
- <1% Sensory/Vision Impaired or Blind
- <1% Physical Disability
- <1% Sensory/Deaf-Blindness
- <1% Multiple Disabilities

# Feedback about SEPAC Operations

- SEPAC can:
  - Increase frequency and modalities of publicizing meetings
  - Develop and run support groups
  - Host more informal networking events
  - Host more speakers
- Training topics of interest
  - Executive Functioning
  - Anxiety
  - Understanding Education Evaluation vs. Full Neuropsychological Evaluation
- Support group of interest
  - ADHD
  - Autism
  - Language-based learning disabilities

# SEPAC Action Items – 2022-23 School Year

- Publicize Meetings:
  - Develop distribution list for direct contact
  - Work with PTO's and PAC's to share information
  - Develop monthly newsletter
  - Include updates in All Around APS Newsletter
- Schedule Speakers on Training Topics of Interest
  - Executive Functioning – Dr. Jason Fogler 10/12/22
  - Anxiety – TBD, Targeting March 2023
  - Education Evaluation vs. Full Neuropsychological Evaluation (TBD, Targeting January 2023)
- Develop Support Groups
  - Autism
  - ADHD

# SEPAC Brochure



SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

## We are here to support you!

\* Join our monthly meeting on the second Tuesday of each month.

\* Join us for additional workshops, presentations, and networking events.

\* Email us with your questions, concerns, and suggestions.

\* Donate as little as \$25 at our website or mail a check to:

Andover SEPAC  
30 Whittier Court  
Andover, MA 01810



ANDOVER SPECIAL  
EDUCATION PARENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
(SEPAC)

Follow us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/  
andoversepac.org/](https://www.facebook.com/andoversepac.org/)

Our webpage is  
[www.andoversepac.org](http://www.andoversepac.org)

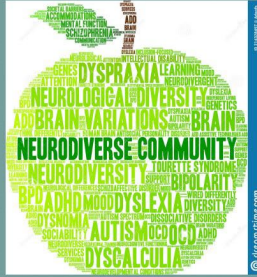


SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANDOVER SEPAC  
30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA 01810



SPECIAL EDUCATION PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



The mind is not a glass to be filled rather a lamp to be ignited. (Plutarch)  
Its precious flame needing many hands to keep it steady even through the storm.



## Our Mission:

\* To foster a partnership with parents and the community to ensure that all students that require specialized instruction become life-long learners, critical thinkers and socially responsible citizens who contribute to a diverse community.

\* The members of this volunteer group will work in conjunction with the dedicated staff of teachers and administrators to ensure that all students are able to access the high-quality, comprehensive education and educational services that APS has to offer.

\* To help parents/caregivers connect with one another in a supportive, transparent, inclusive manner that encourages an atmosphere of effective open communication amongst students, parents, educators, school administration and the community at large.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (2022-2023)

### Co-Chairs:

Lauren Kinney  
[andoversepac.chair1@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.chair1@gmail.com)

Melissa Irvin  
[andoversepacchair@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepacchair@gmail.com)

### Vice-Chair:

Tara Bodine  
[andoversepac.vp@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.vp@gmail.com)

### Secretary:

Sherry Kirby  
[andoversepac.secretary2@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.secretary2@gmail.com)

### Treasurer:

Dawn Gallagher  
[andoversepac.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.treasurer@gmail.com)

### Outreach/Public Relations:

Georgeann Keer  
[andoversepac.outreach2@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.outreach2@gmail.com)

Tiffany Carroll  
[andoversepac.outreach1@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.outreach1@gmail.com)

Currently Vacant  
[andoversepac.relacionespublicas@gmail.com](mailto:andoversepac.relacionespublicas@gmail.com)



## SEPAC Calendar 2022/2023

Andover SEPAC generally meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm. See our 2022-23 meeting calendar below (\*indicates meeting date has been shifted to accommodate holidays or school closures).

All are welcome!

September 13, 2022	February 7, 2023*
October 11, 2022	March 14, 2023
November 9, 2022*	April 11, 2023
December 6, 2022*	May 9, 2023
January 10, 2023	June 6, 2023*

Additional workshops, presentations, and networking events will be scheduled throughout the school year.

Meeting locations and/or zoom links will be shared on our Facebook page:  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
andoversepac.org/](https://www.facebook.com/andoversepac.org/)  
our website: [www.andoversepac.org](http://www.andoversepac.org)  
and via email blast.



# Feedback about Special Services Operations – Opportunities for Improvement

- Improved communication regarding progress/lack of progress
  - Timely manner
  - More responsive
  - Consolidation of assignments into one platform
- Improved communication regarding ESY
  - Will my child qualify?
  - What will programming look like?
- Increase opportunities for inclusion throughout the district
- Increase awareness and strategies for staff re: invisible disabilities (i.e., ADHD)



# Feedback about Student Services Operation – Accolades

- Parent involvement

- Warm and welcoming
- Responsive
- Listens to concerns
- Collaborative
- Empathetic
- Great follow up

- Specific programs

- Shawsheen
- TOPS
- EXCEL (can we expand to all middle schools?)
- Bridge

- Teachers and Therapists

- AMAZING
- Caring
- “Salt of the earth”
- Spectacular
- Many compliments for SLP’s



- Increased use of evidence-based programming throughout the district

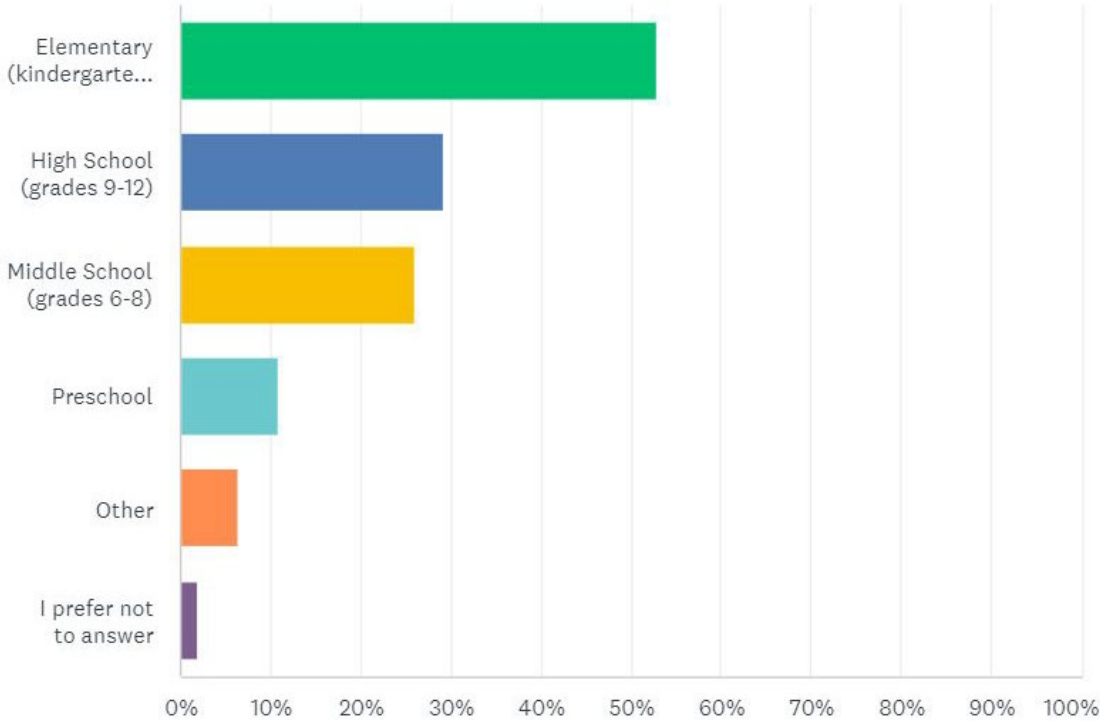
- Let’s keep this up!

# Actions requested

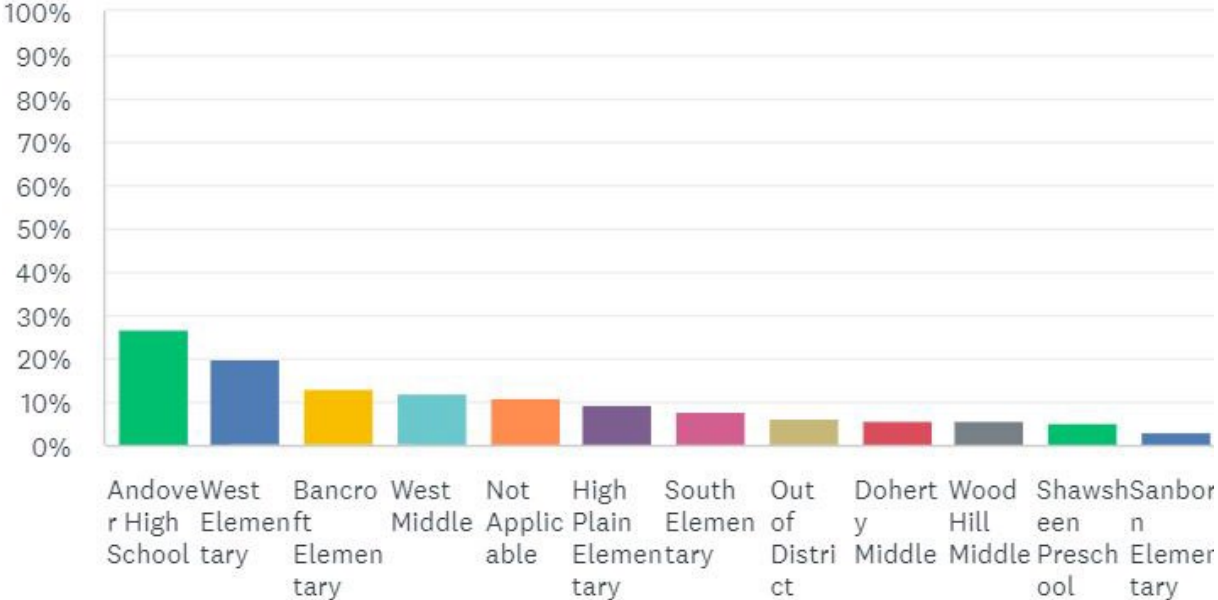
- Help promote SEPAC
  - Distribute SEPAC brochure with IEP forms as well as with Notice of Procedural Safeguards
  - Share SEPAC meeting and event information with the entire APS community
- Consider more frequent check-ins between teachers and parents/guardians
  - Monthly mini progress reports
  - Daily journals from Special Ed teachers
- Consider hosting annual workshops on transitions
- Standardize method and frequency of communication from teachers
- Begin planning for summer programming earlier

# Appendix

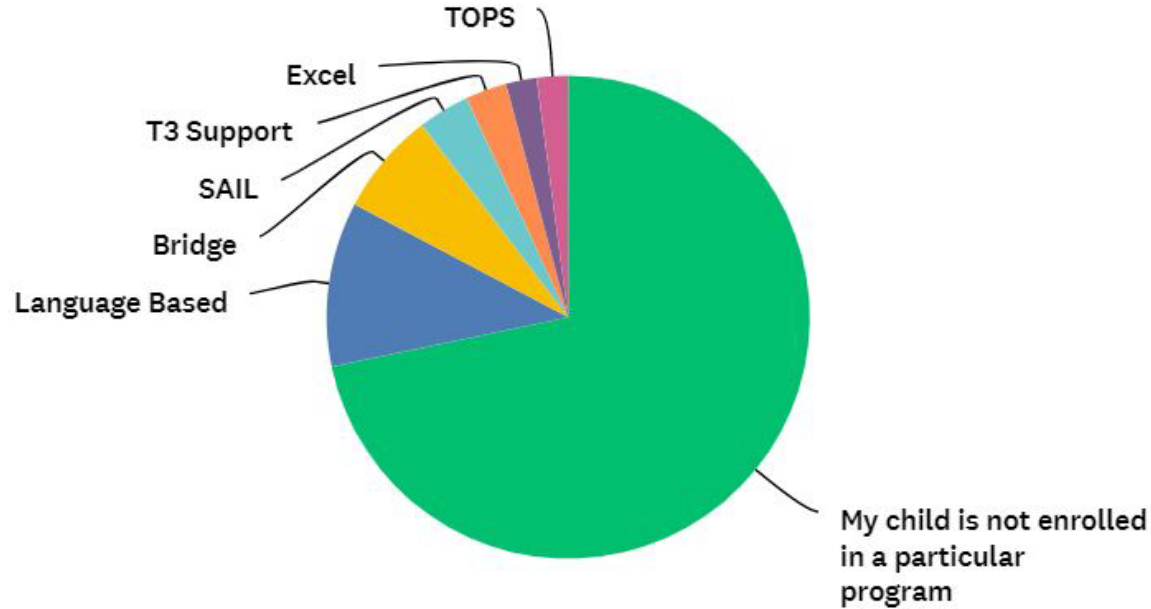
# Responses by Grade (Grouped)



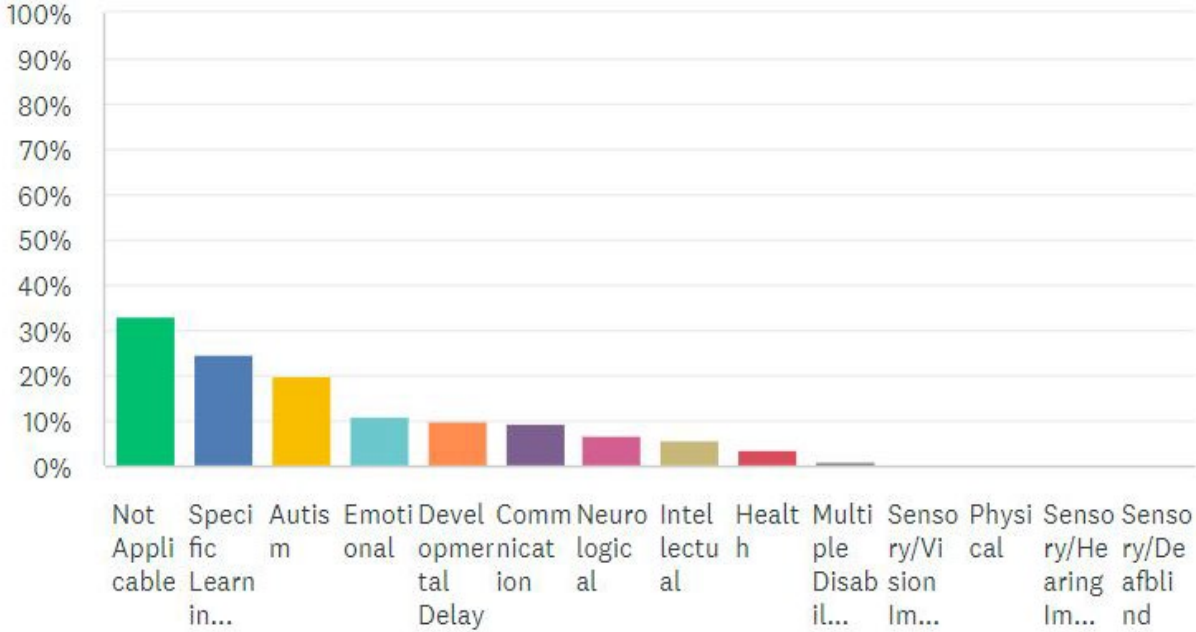
# Which school(s) does your child(ren) attend?



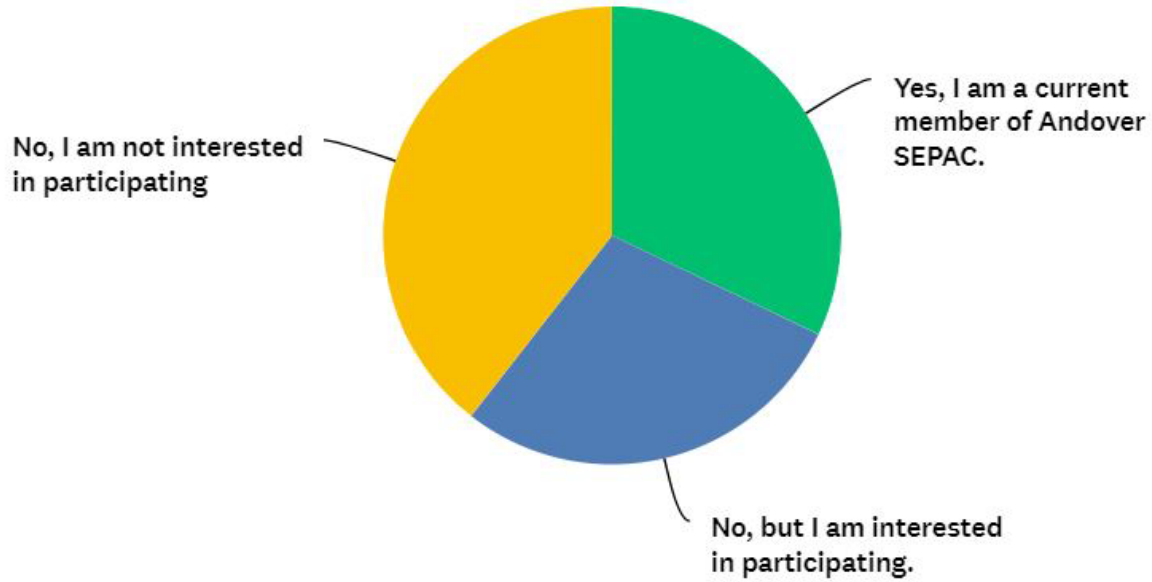
# Which special ed program/model is your child enrolled in?



# What is the primary disability listed on your child's IEP

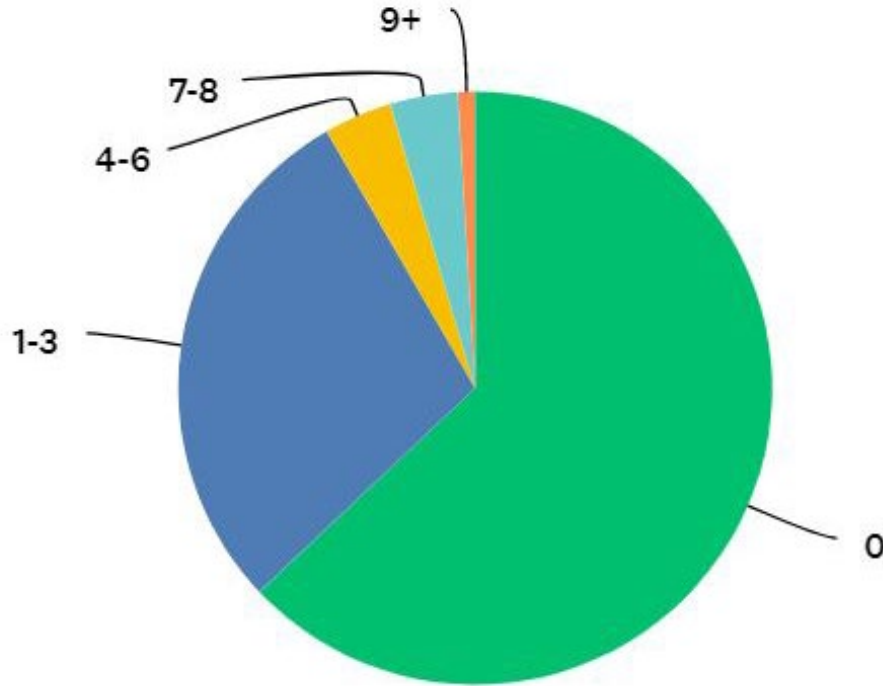


# SEPAC Membership

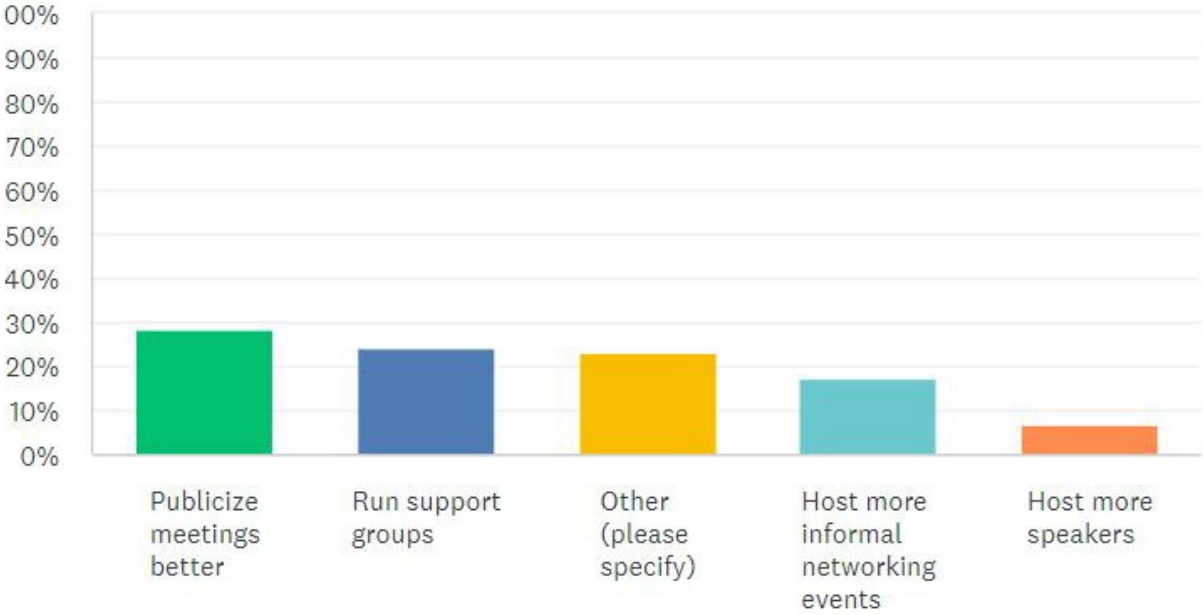




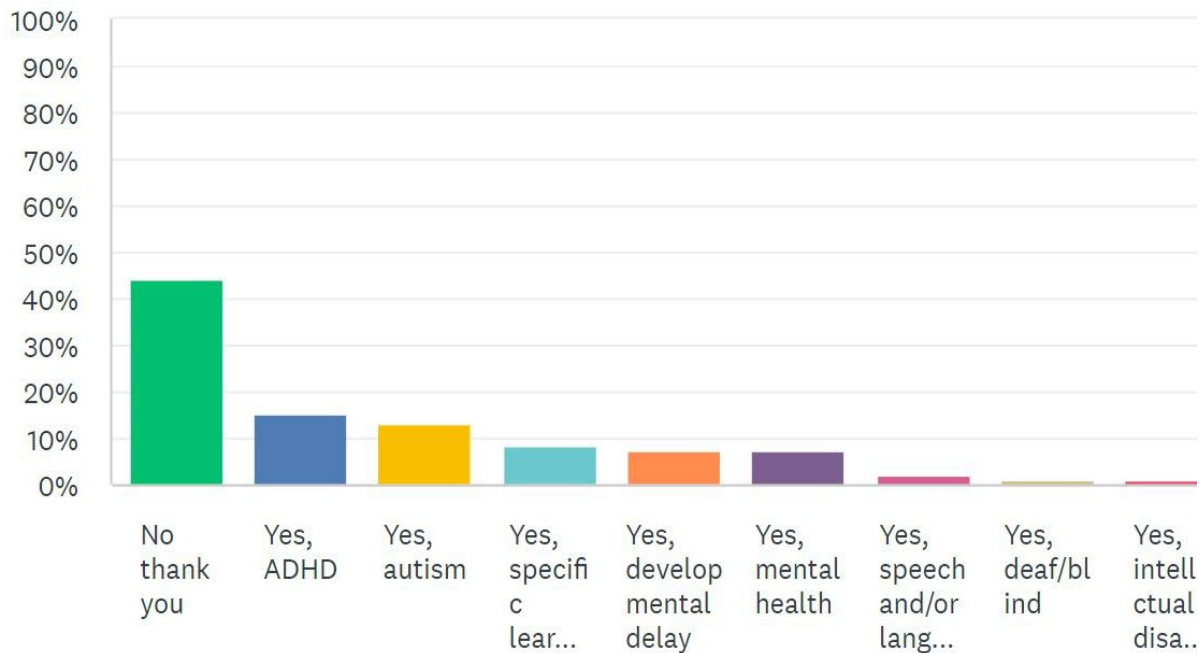
# SEPAC Meeting Attendance (Number of meetings attended)



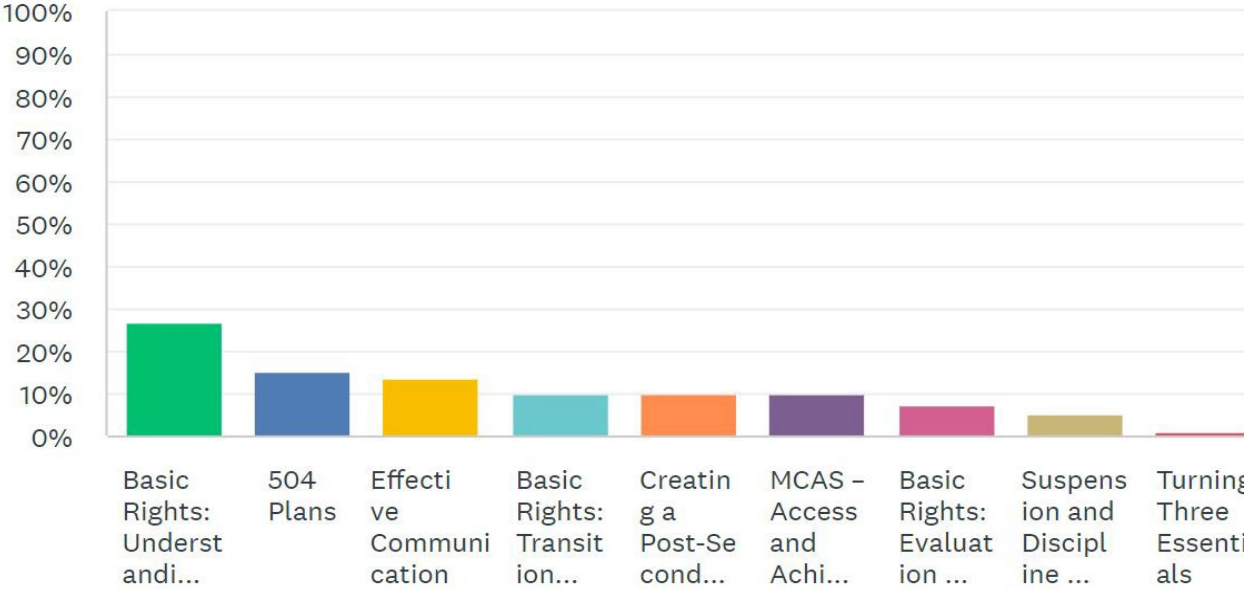
# Best Way to Increase Parent Participation



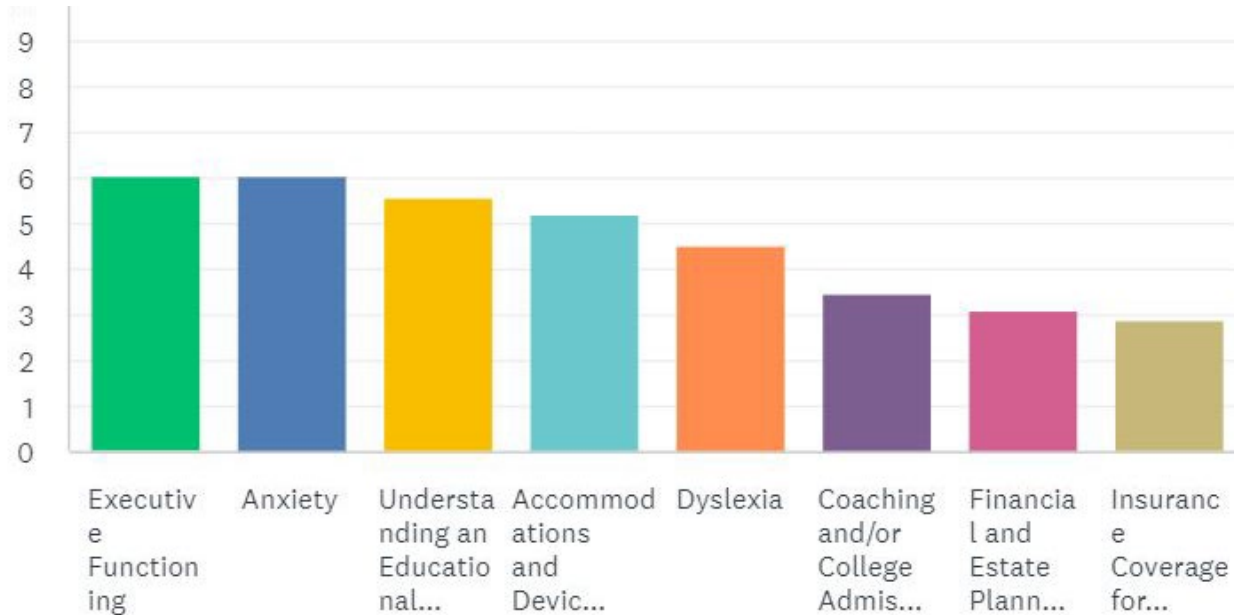
# Support Groups of Interest



# Question: Which free Federation for Children with Special Needs workshops would you be most likely to attend?



Question: Which training topics would you be interested in attending, presented by local specialists? Please rank in order of preference.



Question: How likely would you be to participate in an informal drop-in session with members of the Special Education department?

