

# You Are Not Alone

"We have not had to resort to hiring a lawyer yet, and SPEDWatch is one of the reasons. Every time I have a question about my son's rights, someone has been able to provide me with the resources to find the answer."

*Merilee Maeir, Sharon, MA*

"I'm overwhelmed and awestruck when I see how parents support each other through the SPEDWatch listserv. This group is completely selfless, and the extent to which I've been helped is humbling."

*Joanne Stagnone, Tewksbury, MA*

"There are many individual advocates (like myself) and we are doing what we can, family by family, but SPEDWatch takes advocacy to a new level: to activism. SPEDWatch gives people the courage and backup they need to stand up and insist that children's special education rights be protected."

*Melinda Corey, Rockport, MA*

"Thanks for another great issue of your SPEDWatch newsletter. I look forward to reading it every month."

*Kathleen Boundy, Esq.*

Co-Director, Center for Law and Education  
Boston and Washington, D.C.

"SPEDWatch has been a godsend to me. When the Department of Education won't respond to me, SPEDWatch is there. When I can't find the regulation I need, SPEDWatch is there. Most of all, when I feel like this road is just too hard a road to travel, I find I am not alone."

*Marion King, Reading, MA*



"A lost education is a lost child."

*John F. Kennedy*

SPEDWatch is a grassroots, nonprofit, civil rights movement fighting to secure the educational rights of all Massachusetts students with disabilities, ages 3-21.

We are parents, educators, and other concerned citizens united to right a terrible wrong: the systematic educational neglect of children with special needs. These are our children. And we cannot wait any longer for the system to right itself.



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SPEDWatch does not provide direct services, individual advocacy, or representation to children with disabilities. SPEDWatch is not engaged in rendering legal, educational, medical, therapeutic, or other professional advice. If such advice is desired, please contact an appropriate professional.

# Because

SPECIAL EDUCATION  
IS A RIGHT.

*Neglect is a Wrong.*



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

## STOP FIGHTING THE SYSTEM.

### A System Designed To Fail

Our country guarantees its citizens certain rights. Children – all children – have a legal right to an appropriate public education. But every day school systems across Massachusetts routinely deprive children with disabilities of their basic educational rights. It's a system-wide, state-wide crisis that forces parents and schools into adversarial relationships where everyone loses. Especially the children.

SPEDWatch is dedicated to ending the special education battle.

### We Are Ordinary People Facing An Extraordinary Challenge

SPEDWatch is a grassroots, nonprofit, civil rights movement comprised of parents, educators, and other concerned citizens. Together, we're working to secure the educational rights of all Massachusetts children with disabilities (ages 3-21) by breaking down the systemic barriers that rob them of an equal chance at a bright future.



## START CHANGING IT.

### Together We Can Change Their Future

History has taught us that the oppression suffered by victimized groups will persist until the people themselves rise up to demand change. It's how women won the right to vote. It's how African Americans defeated segregation. And it's how we will secure the future for students with disabilities, using the same techniques of nonviolent direct action employed by the civil rights pioneers who went before us.

Our children's very lives are at stake.  
We must take action. We have no choice.

### How We Work

SPEDWatch targets the root causes of educational discrimination against schoolchildren with special needs, including: lack of accountability; poor compliance with, enforcement of and funding of special education law; a pervasive negative perception of students with disabilities; and parents who lack a unified voice.

### How? By:

- Publicizing the dysfunction in our educational system and its human consequences
- Insisting on accountability when schools violate the law
- Confronting activity that jeopardizes students' special education rights
- Empowering and organizing members through our monthly newsletter and members-only listserv
- Engaging with groups that shape special education law and policy



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

## SPEDWatch

### No Child Should Ever Be Left Behind

SPEDWatch has only one demand: that students with disabilities be given the education to which they are legally and morally entitled.  
No more. No less. No compromise.

As a grassroots movement, we can only succeed with the support of people like you. Join us in the fight for special education rights. Make a difference in the lives of today's children ... and pave the way for generations to come.



Join SPEDWatch at [www.spedwatch.org](http://www.spedwatch.org)

It's easy and affordable. Membership levels at \$10, \$25, or \$50 a year.

It's time to fight for what's right.

The children are waiting.

SPEDWatch is a 501(c)(3) corporation. 06/2008  
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