

## Knowledge is power

"The Wachusett Parent to Parent Support Group was the very lucky recipient of SPEDWatch's **Basic Rights: Denied** workshop. It was just incredible. Fantastic information. Fantastic presentation. Everyone loved it. We are already talking about booking it again. I urge you to book this workshop for your own groups. You will be very thankful that you did."

*Julianne Kelley, Rutland, MA*

"Definitely one of the best workshops I've ever attended. And like most special ed parents I've attended quite a few."

*Stacey Jackson, Holden, MA*

"If you come to Reading again please call Reading Cable TV and request that they film it. Your presentation was so informative and helpful that I'm sure hundreds of people would love to see it."

*Mary Wynn, Reading, MA*

"I would highly recommend the **Your Special Education Rights** training presented by SPEDWatch. It was not only comprehensive but the presenter was more than willing to answer any questions our parents had. The parents who attended felt that they left with a clear understanding of the process. We will definitely invite them back next year."

*Katherine M. Martin, Esq.  
Vice President, Chicopee, MA SpedPac*

"After the **Special Education Advocacy: 101** workshop, I came home feeling informed, invigorated, and wanting to hear more."

*Gina Marie Drakos, Danvers, MA*

SPEDWatch is a grassroots, nonprofit, social change 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.



SPEDWatch founder Ellen M Chambers, MBA, shares her knowledge with workshop participants.

**Call or email for  
Workshop Prices & Availability**

**SPEDWatch, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1440 Pepperell, MA 01463**  
**(978) 433-5983**  
**info@spedwatch.org www.spedwatch.org**

SPEDWatch is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. 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

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

*Special Education Rights  
Workshops*



**www.spedwatch.org**

## Your Special Education Rights

This workshop provides a general overview of the special education process and the laws that govern that process. All Massachusetts school districts are required to provide, in cooperation with their Special Education Parent Advisory Council, an annual workshop on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under state and federal special education laws. This training allows schools to meet that regulatory obligation. (1½ hours)

### Attendees will be able to

- Identify federal and state special education regulations.
- Identify resources where they can learn more about special education rights.
- Define the basic legal requirements that govern the special education process.
- Define the basic procedural safeguards provided by special education law.
- Understand the extent of their right to participate in educational decision making.
- Identify the resources available to help settle disputes about a student's educational programming.

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## Special Education Advocacy: 101

If you are new (or not so new) to the world of special education this presentation will give you the basic information you'll need to begin advocating for your student with disabilities. From building a strong independent clinical team, to working judiciously with school systems, this training lays a solid foundation on which more sophisticated advocacy techniques can be built. (2 hours)

### Attendees will be able to

- Explain why a strong clinical team is so important, and how best to build that team.
- Understand the importance of self-pacing and organization.
- Understand the key regulations that govern special education referral, evaluation, IEP development, and related activities.
- Participate more effectively in team meetings.
- Interpret the meaning of evaluation test results (standard scores, subtest scores, percentiles, etc.)
- Determine whether or not a student is making effective progress.

*Custom presentations  
are available upon request*

## Basic Rights: Denied

What do you do when a child's special education rights are violated? How can you avoid the roadblocks in the special education system? This presentation teaches participants how to use the law and basic advocacy techniques to address the most common problems and regulatory violations that occur at each stage of the special education process. Prior attendance at a special education rights training is suggested but not required. (2 hours)

### Attendees will be able to

- Use the basic regulatory requirements and policies that govern special education to prevent and correct violations of students' special education rights.
- Integrate state and federal authoritative guidance on special education law into advocacy arguments.
- Understand key concepts in special education law such as: effective progress, the purpose of the law, "stay-put", and least restrictive environment.
- Explain the important differences between IEPs and Section 504 Plans.
- File a state complaint with the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Program Quality Assurance (PQA) unit.