

Rep Training



Welcome to the Exceptional Education Committee (EEC) 2021-2022





Mission of the EEC

- Provide information and support to parents and staff so they can help children with exceptional needs succeed.
- Help **all** children and adults understand and appreciate challenges faced by children with exceptional needs.
- Work legislatively to secure and retain adequate laws and funding for children with exceptional needs.





History of the Special Needs Committee

- Formed in 2002, in response to parents being unhappy with their children's unmet educational needs, pending litigation, and a long list of compliance issues
- Initial committee comprised of seven parents, a school board member, and an Assistant Special Education Director
- "Special Needs" defined broadly to include a variety of disabilities and identified GATE students
- Monthly Speaker Series, Ability Awareness Program, inclusion in Annual Parenting Conference; parents, staff, and community invited to attend
- Began with a handful but now every school has a PTA representative to the Special Needs Committee





Name Change to Exceptional Education Committee

In 2020 the name was changed from Special Needs Committee to Exceptional Education Committee.

“Special Needs” is a controversial term for people with disabilities. Some say “There’s nothing special about my needs!” There can be a stigma attached to the expression “special needs” which may be a barrier to some students in our community.

When students with IEPs and 504s receive an exceptional education, all students benefit. Meaningful inclusion gives all students improved social skills, problem-solving skills, improved self esteem, and respect for others based on who they are and not what they can do.

Exceptional Education is for EVERYONE!





EEC Rep Roles & Responsibilities

- Responsibilities
- Growing as a community leader
- Best Practices: Do's and Don'ts





Responsibilities

- Attend EEC meetings
- Ask Registration Team to include Exceptional Education as a parent volunteer interest option
- Ask Registration Team to include EEC Newsletter Interest forms in Registration process
- Report at Unit (School) PTA meetings
- Publicize ECC events and messages to your school community
- Appropriate protocol to refer community concerns and questions





Growing as a Community Leader

- “Common Ground Coffees”/Gatherings
 - Community building or informational
- Ability Awareness Programs
 - Full kit available for use
- Track and Refer Community Concerns and Questions
- Educate Yourself about Special Needs Issues and Resources
- The Intangible Qualities of Leadership





Best Practices: Do's and Don'ts

Do

- Act and speak like an example of acceptance
- Share information with every group
- Collaborate and communicate like a good partner
- Consider creating a separate email address for EEC business
- Remember you are part of the PTA and a volunteer
- Hold meetings in public places (Starbucks, MPR, etc) so people feel comfortable
- Be careful of using links external to PTA or SRVUSD

Don't

- Keep information to only a small group
- Pick and choose what information to publicize
- Act independently of the EEC if identifying self as "EEC"
- Recommend one service provider over another





PTA Process Flow

- Events on Calendar
 - Propose to PTA Board and get approval
- Communications
 - Email Signature separate from personal, add your unit and PTA and mission
 - Our events are sponsored by EEC and Parent Engagement Committee
 - Flyers/PeachJar needs approval
 - Weekly or Monthly Newsletter needs approval
 - You can't ask for an email list or parents but someone can send on your behalf (i.e. teacher, office, etc)
 - School centric, select avenue as appropriate for message
- Budget
 - Request during budget process in Spring at your school
 - Use it or lose it





Wisdom of the Group: Shared Learning

- Survey of successes, concerns, questions at individual units
- Promising trends to watch
- Fidelity to the EEC mission
- Adherence to the PTA way





Where do I go for....?





IEPs, 504s, GATE...which department?

- Special Education - IEPs
 - Linda Rowley Thom - SELPA Executive Director
 - Amy Capurro - Director of Special Education
 - Kate Nolda - Asst Director of Special Education
- Student Services - 504s
 - Dave Kravitz - Director of Student Services
 - Katie Witt - Director of Instructional Services
- Education Services - GATE
 - Nadine Rosenzweig - Exec. Director, Educational Services
 - Gregory Duran - Assistant Director, Educational Services
- Special Needs Liaison
 - Christine Koehne



Student Services

- Enrollment
- School Transfers
- Student Discipline
- Section 504
- Health Services
- Mental Wellness
- Foster Youth & Homeless Services
- Home Hospital
- Bullying Prevention
- Safe & Drug-Free Schools
- Tobacco Use Prevention Ed Program
- Community Resources
- Animals on Campus
- Service Animal in Training

Education Services

- Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)



Special Education

- San Ramon Infant Toddler Early Start (SITES)
- Center for Early Intervention of Autism (CEIA)
- Special Day Class (SDC)
- Independent Education Plan (IEP)
 - Autism (AUT)
 - Deaf-Blindness (DB)
 - Deafness (DEAF)
 - Emotionally Disturbed (ED)
 - Hearing Impairment (HI)
 - Intellectual Disability (ID)
 - Multiple Disabilities (MD)
 - Orthopedically Impaired (OI)
 - Other Health Impaired (OHI)
 - Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
 - Speech-Language Impaired (SLI)
 - Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - Visually Impaired (VI)



Resources





District Resources

- San Ramon Valley Unified School District Website www.srvusd.net
- School Board
- Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
- Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)
- Special Needs Liaison
- School Sites
 - Site Council Boards
 - Climate Committees
 - LCAP Parent Appointees





PTA Resources

- PTA Unit (School Campus) Board
- PTA Council www.srvcpta-ca.schoolloop.com
- California State PTA www.capta.org
- National PTA www.pta.org

