



Ashland Parent Advisory Council

Leading the Way

We know it's hard to be a parent of a child with special needs or learning differences. ASHPAC is a small but strong group of parents working towards the understanding, respect, support and appropriate education for all children with special needs and/or disabilities in our community (including students on an IEP, 504 or receiving any services from the schools).

Here's how ASHPAC can help you!

- Find support from other parents who understand the struggles you may face
 - Expert speakers and educational workshops to help you understand how to help your child.
 - Opportunity to network with parents who have connections to professionals and programs that may be helpful for you or your child.
 - Access to the personal experiences of others regarding the structure/programs/transitions at the different schools to help you advocate and support your child as he/she goes through the Ashland School System and beyond.
 - Ability to establish relationships informally with the school committee, school administrators, and Team Chairs at all school levels before your child is at that school.
 - Participation in special meetings with school administration on key topics facing your child, such as MCAS, reading initiatives, transitioning between schools, etc.
 - Access to represent ASHPAC on school-related project teams and focus groups that impact your child's learning (Director of Student Services and Superintendent Searches, Special Ed Audit participant, Site Council Representatives, homework focus group, School Committee presentations, etc.).

Here's how you can help ASHPAC!

- Become a member of the Board; we are looking for a secretary, treasurer, and others. The Board is flexible and meets one evening per month during the school year. Board meetings are open to the public. **Come to the next Board meeting on June 17, 7:00pm, Ashland Middle School to meet the ASHPAC Board, School Committee members, and to learn more.**

ASHPAC impacts the entire community! In addition to monthly speakers, we have recently provided scholarships to graduating seniors, sponsored Ashland athletes at the Special Olympics, and donated technology to classrooms and therapists. We also fulfilled teacher requests for non-budgeted items such as therapeutic swings, professional development, and transportation to allow a special needs class to go to an art gallery.

Please visit our website ASHPAC.org or call Mary-Ellen at 508-628-5010 to learn more, view the new [ASHPAC blog](#), [subscribe](#) to ASHPAC's mailing list to receive information on speakers, area events, and news, or [contact us](#) for more information and to let us know how you would like to help.

You owe it to yourself and your child to be connected and involved!