

Who Can Benefit from Special Education Services?

Every child has unique strengths and needs. Some children have obvious challenges and others have “hidden” challenges, like learning disabilities. There are many types of special needs and many ways to support students with them. The SSELAC welcomes you into a network of supportive parents who have “been there”...

Together, this group works to provide a supportive environment for families and educators that will help students achieve their potential.

SSELAC members provide information and support to help families feel empowered and optimistic about their child’s education. We offer:

- Parent-to-parent support and networking
- More effective communication between families and special education staff members in the schools
- Educational forums and workshops to improve educational, recreational, vocational and social programs for our students
- An avenue to bring concerns to the school administration

Please Join Us!

Membership is open to all families interested in supporting children in Smithfield with Special Needs and learning differences. This group holds regular meetings where parents can learn from each other, gain awareness on pertinent issues, and find opportunities that will help build positive relationships with schools and community.

Get Involved!

For further information contact any school staff member, the special education office, or return the attached form or email: SmithfieldSSELAC@gmail.com

Smithfield Public Schools

Special Education Department
49 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
(401) 231-6608, Ext. 216
ECrudele@smithfield-ps.org

Other Family Supports:

- The Regional Resource Center at Sargent Center: (401) 886-6627
- Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities: (401) 456 -8072
- RI Parent Information Network : (401) 270 -0101; 1-800-464-3399
- Parent Support Network of RI:

SMITHFIELD SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2016/2017



**You Are Your Child’s Best Advocate.
Become informed!
SSELAC**

What is SSELAC?



Smithfield Special Education Local Advisory Committee provides advocacy, information and community connection for Smithfield families whose children receive Special Education Services. We are an all-volunteer group that welcomes parents, educators, providers, and interested community members.

Our mission is to work for the understanding, respect, and support of all children with special needs in Smithfield. And we accomplish this by working collaboratively with administrators and staff to continually improve the experiences of students, parents/guardians and staff members in the schools.

Being a parent or guardian of a child with special needs comes with lots of challenges. The amount of information you need to help your child can be overwhelming. Just know that you're not alone! Approximately 13% of children in the Smithfield school district have IEPs. The SSELAC is here to help and support you! By working together, we can help the community to better understand the special needs of our students.

2016/2017 Meeting Dates:

November 10, 2016
January 12, 2017
March 9, 2017
May 11, 2017

The Functions and Responsibilities of the Special Education Parent Advisory Committee:

In compliance with State and Federal regulations, the majority of the committee members are parents. The committee meets throughout the academic school year to share information on Special Education issues and concerns. Occasionally there are guest speakers and workshops.

We are a united voice for special needs children and considered an advisory committee to the Smithfield school district and its Special Education Department. We work with them in partnership to determine appropriate programs and services for children with special needs.

We are a group that works to support and protect access to quality education for all children—especially those with differing abilities—and participate in decision making that affects policies, rules and regulations. We:

- Act as an advocate for all children with differing abilities
- Advise parents of their rights and responsibilities with regards to their children with special needs
- Assist the Smithfield School Department concerning local compliance with State and Federal regulations

If you would like more information about the Smithfield Special Education Parent Advisory Committee, please complete the following and mail to the address on the reverse side or return to your child's teacher.



I would like more information

I am interested in participation on this committee

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone and/or email: _____