New Paltz SEPTA

Being formed

Special Education Parent Teacher Association

A place to come together.

What could SEPTA offer your family?

We're bringing families, educators and our community together to build a Special Education PTA—sharing resources, strengthening family-school partnerships, and advocating for every child's education and well-being.

Does your child have or need an IEP or 504 plan?

You belong here. Support may include help with reading or math, speech, attention, anxiety or health needs. Families with a wide range of support needs are welcome, including gifted and twice-exceptional learners.

Why get involved

Community support

Meet people who understand. Share experiences, build friendships and feel less alone.

Practical learning

Learn about school supports and share useful information through speakers, workshops and family conversations.

Local connections

Find Ulster County resources and connect with families in other districts, including Highland and Kingston.

What we hope to explore together - you can help choose

- **Preschool and early elementary.** Early concerns and evaluations; speech and communication; sensory needs; play, friendships and the move to kindergarten.
- **Elementary through high school.** Mental health, anxiety and school avoidance; learning and attention needs; bullying, belonging and inclusive activities.
- **High school and transition to adulthood.** Self advocacy; changing schools; substance use prevention and support; preparing for college, work and adult services.
- **At every age.** Understanding IEPs and 504 plans; working with school teams; navigating therapies, recreation and family support in Ulster County.

Frequently asked questions

What are an IEP and a 504 plan? An IEP (Individualized Education Program) is a special education plan. A 504 plan provides disability-related accommodations and supports, without requiring special education eligibility.

Who can join, including families outside New Paltz? Anyone who cares about children. Families in BOCES or out-of-district placements and neighboring communities are welcome. No diagnosis, IEP or 504 plan is needed to express interest.

Do I have to attend meetings, volunteer or take a leadership role? No. There are no required meetings or volunteer commitments. Participate as your time allows; you are welcome even if you only want updates.

Does this replace my school PTA? No. We welcome involvement in both SEPTA and your school PTA or PTSA.

Does the interest list enroll me in paid membership? No. Signing up is free; paid membership is separate. Details about joining and dues will follow.

Join our membership interest list

ulstercountysepta.org/new-paltz

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SCAN TO JOIN