

# Top Ten Tips to Energize Your SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council)

<b>1. Reach out.</b>	Ask members to reach out to people they know to build SEAC membership.
<b>2. Develop a voice.</b>	Help members effectively speak out on behalf of children with disabilities in your community.
<b>3. Build relationships.</b>	Encourage members to share their own stories, needs and lessons learned.
<b>4. Seek diverse perspectives.</b>	Diverse perspectives enrich discussions and decisions. Be intentional about the composition of the group. Actively recruit missing voices.
<b>5. Ask questions.</b>	You'll receive more valid information when you ask questions. See handout: Key Questions for SEAC Parent Leaders to Ask*.
<b>6. Establish credibility.</b>	List your SEAC's accomplishments. Include them on promotional brochures and present them to the school board.
<b>7. Meet regularly.</b>	Meetings should be regular, but not too frequent. People are busy. Use meeting time effectively.
<b>8. Develop a mission.</b>	Know where you are going and how you will get there.
<b>9. Find a yearly focus.</b>	Set annual priorities and specific goals to accomplish.
<b>10. Celebrate results.</b>	Make a noticeable difference, then celebrate! Recognizing results is energizing and contagious.

*\*Key Questions for SEAC Parent Leaders to Ask, PACER Center.*

For additional support, visit [mnseacinfo.org](http://mnseacinfo.org). Resources on the site include twelve online training modules as well as a direct link to PACER staff with SEAC expertise.

**SEAC Web site:**  
[www.mnseacinfo.org](http://www.mnseacinfo.org)