

Massachusetts Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

American Academy of Pediatrics

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MCAAP MONDAY DROP IN LUNCH BUNCH

MARY BETH MIOTTO, MCAAP PRESIDENT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 12:30-1:00 PM

WHAT IS THIS SERIES ABOUT?

Ongoing opportunities for Chapter members to connect with each other and officers in a small virtual meetup

Opportunities to give and get some “pearls” on how to handle common practice challenges: what they don’t teach you in residency

Current focus: How to connect families with state and local agencies in the “medical neighborhood” for learning and developmental concerns

- “It takes a village”



- “Got ideas?”: Agenda is flexible and open to member input
- Guest speakers In upcoming weeks
- Learning “bites” will be posted to mcaap.org

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FUTURE MONDAY LUNCH BUNCHES THIS FALL AND ON..

IDEA Part B:
Requesting an
IEP/504 TEAM
assessment and
understanding
the timeline: Just
do it

16 Oct.

Navigating
Roadblocks to
IDEA Part B
Assessment: How
to work with
parents and
advocate for
testing

30 Oct.

Reading an IEP
for information
and to support
your
families (With Dr.
Yamini Howe,
Developmental
Behavioral
Pediatrician)

13 Nov.

Following up IEPs
and 504s with
Parents

11 Dec.

Part C IEP
Services, Early
Intervention:
When, timeline
(With State
Agency Guest)

8 Jan.

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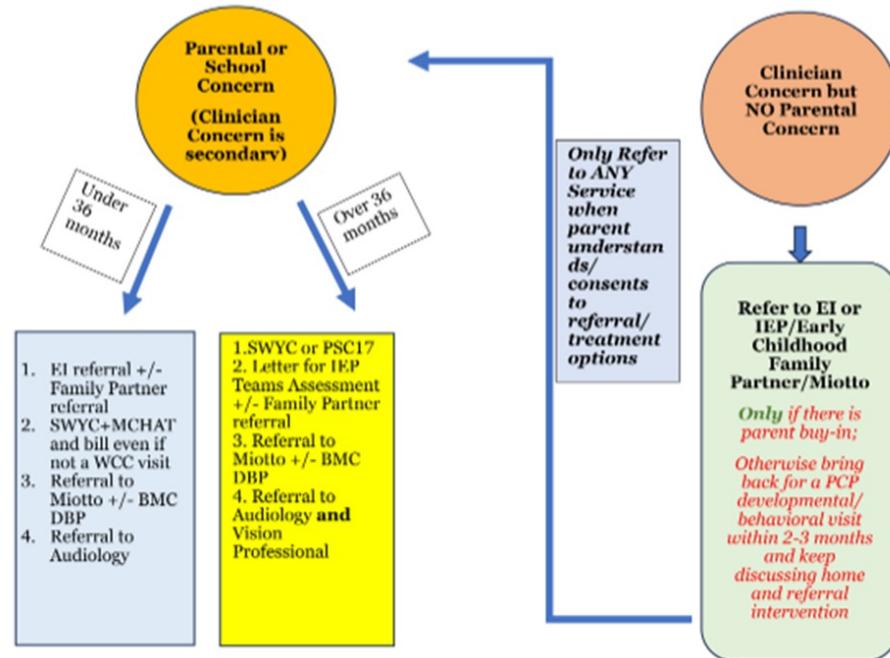


Early Childhood and Youth Referrals for:

- Language (expressive and/or receptive) delays
 - Other developmental concerns/delays
- Atypical behaviors in toddlers/preschoolers/school age youth
 - Failed developmental SWYC screens +/- POSI
 - Teacher classroom behavior or learning concerns

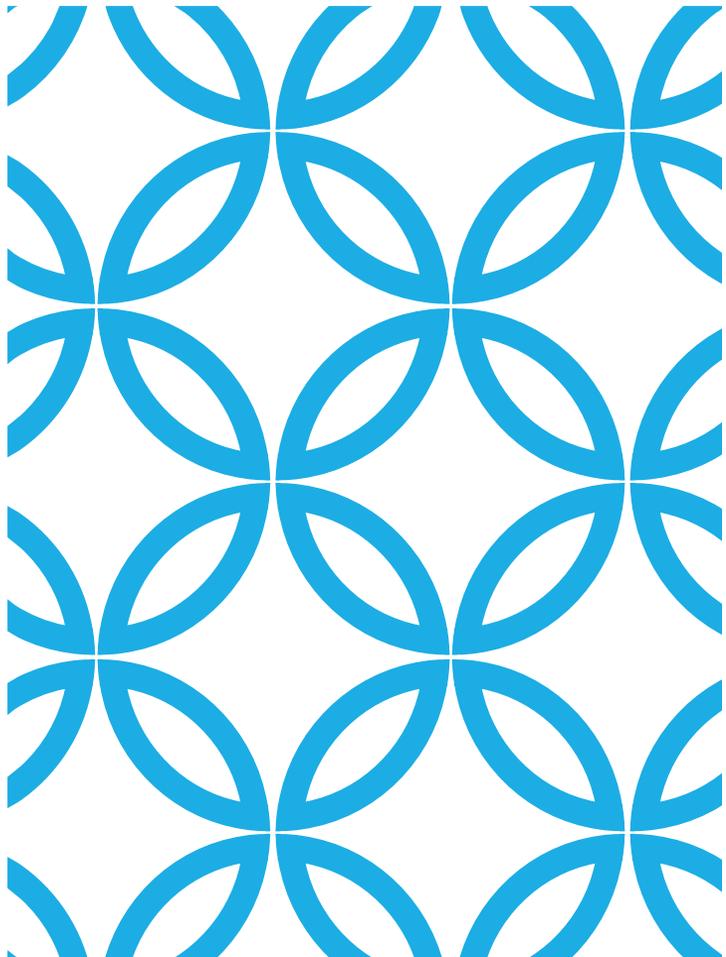
There is currently a 9 to 24 month waiting period for BMC Developmental/Behavioral Pediatrics

There is no current referral to Pediatric/Youth Neuropsychologists who take MassHealth outside of DCF/DYS



Please email or send an EPIC in-basket message to Mary Beth Miotto with any questions Or special concerns. She is trained to take an in-depth developmental intake, perform the ADOS Autism Assessment from 18 months through teen years and will do brief cognitive

Last session I gave an example of a practice-specific process map for positive screens or parent concerns.



IDEA PART B: REQUESTING AN IEP/504 TEAM ASSESSMENT: JUST DO IT

The Massachusetts Timeline is more family and student-centered than the federal regulations timeline but every week without appropriate understanding of a child's learning and behavioral needs in the classroom and services/accommodations is a week of learning and wellness **lost.**

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This responsibility includes implementing child find activities for children who are experiencing homelessness or are wards of the State, highly mobile and migrant children, English learners, and parentally-placed private school children with disabilities, as well as those suspected of having developmental delays as defined in 34 C.F.R. § 300.8(b). It also includes children who have complex medical needs and who reside in nursing homes because of serious health problems and those who are in correctional facilities. 34 C.F.R. § 300.111(b)-(c).

CHILD FIND

Child Find: “Under federal law, all public schools are required to actively look for, find, and evaluate infants, toddlers, children, and young adults up to age 21 who may have a disability and who may require special education services. At X Public Schools, it is our responsibility to identify any children who are X residents who may have a disability—regardless of severity. X Public School District is also required to evaluate those children to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) or 603 CMR 28 (Massachusetts Special Education Regulations).”

from a large MA School District

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QUESTIONS TO ASK TO EFFECTIVELY START THE BALL ROLLING

Practice team needs to understand the process first

Can you work with a team member to create a warm handoff to assist the family or do you have to usher through this process yourself?

Can you use letter templates to expedite the process for families? The request for a TEAM assessment must come from the family/guardian but you can provide the letter template.

Do you have the family buy-in?

Do you have aids to help educate the caregivers along the steps?

What outside groups can also help?

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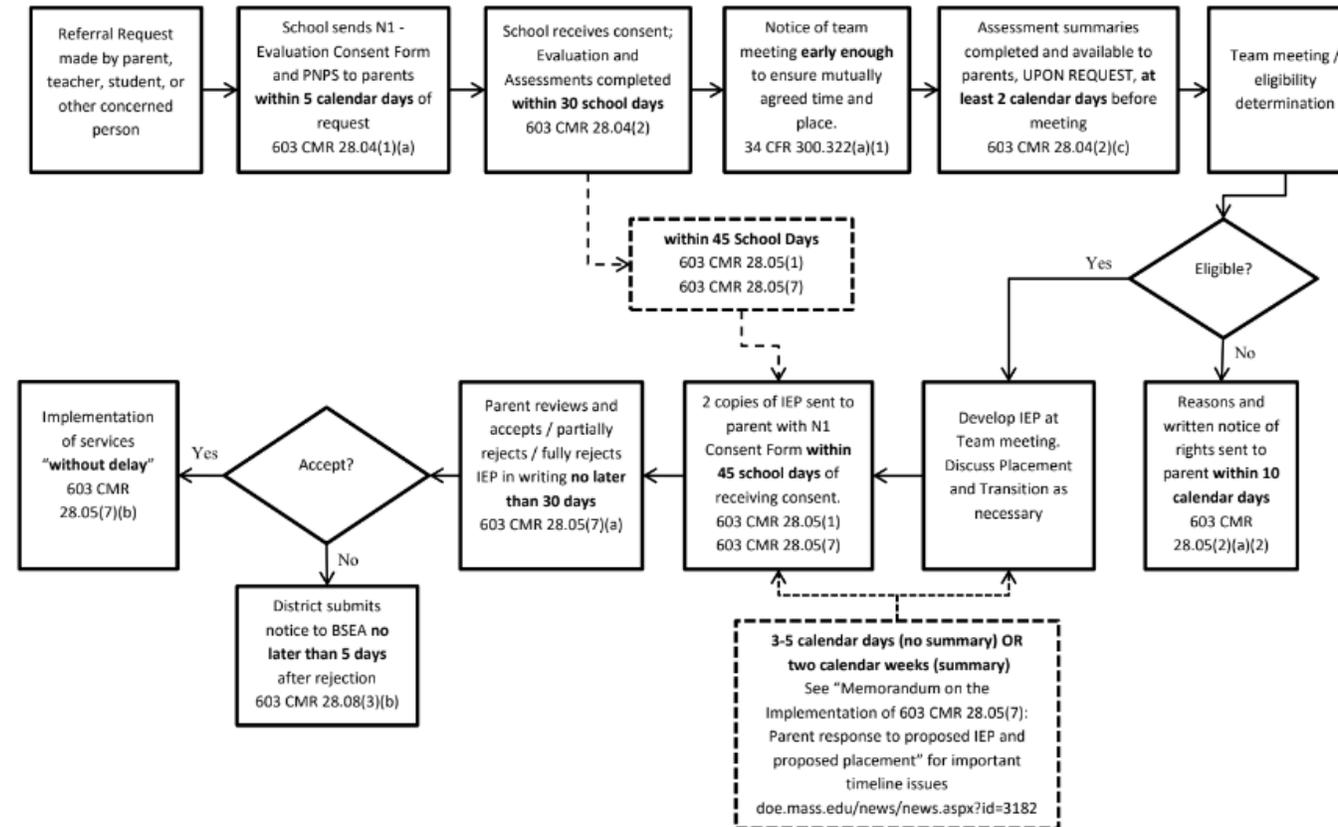
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Massachusetts IEP Timeline Compliance



ASSESSMENT TIMELINES-THE NUANCES OF MASSACHUSETTS REGULATIONS

We can look at an example to better understand these timelines. Let's assume that a parent provided consent for an evaluation on 09/12/11. Counting ahead 30 school days, including a day off for Columbus Day, brings us to 10/25/11, which in this example is the deadline for conducting the evaluation. Counting ahead 45 school days from 09/12/11, including days off for Columbus Day and Veteran's Day, brings us to 11/16/11, which is the deadline for conducting the Team meeting and drafting the IEP.

But what happens if consent is provided at the end of the school year, and there is not enough time under the law as listed above to complete the evaluation and conduct the Team meeting? In Massachusetts, parents may still be in luck. Massachusetts has added the following protection:

"If consent is received within 30 to 45 school working days before the end of the school year, the school district shall ensure that a Team meeting is scheduled so as to allow for the provision of a proposed IEP or written notice of the finding that the student is not eligible no later than 14 days after the end of the school year."

603 C.M.R. 28.05(1). ' From <https://specialeducation-lawyer.com/2011/11/13/massachusetts-special-education-evaluation-timelines>

“Again, let’s look at an example to better understand this law. Assume that the school year ends on Friday, June 22, 2012. 45 school days prior to June 22, 2012 brings us to April 12, 2012. 30 school days prior to June 22, 2012 brings us to May 10, 2012. Thus, we have three time frames to consider:

1. Consent provided prior to April 12, 2012: the school district will be expected to complete the evaluation, Team meeting, and draft IEP before the end of the school year on June 22.
2. Consent provided after May 10, 2012: the school district will not be required to complete the evaluation prior to the end of the school year, because there are fewer than 30 school days remaining.
3. Consent provided between April 12, 2012 and May 10, 2012: the school district will be required to complete the evaluation prior to and of the school year. If the 45-day rule would go beyond June 22, then the school district will be required to convene the Team meeting no later than 14 calendar days following the end of the school year.”

A Parent's Guide to Special Education



A JOINT PUBLICATION OF
The Federation for Children with Special Needs and
The Massachusetts Department of Education



READ THE “BIBLE” OF MASSACHUSETTS SPED

In Spanish also

<https://fcsn.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/08/pgenglish.pdf>

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Sample Letter: Requesting School Evaluation

[Parent's Address]
[Parent's Phone Number]

[Date]

[Principal's Name]
[School]
[School Address]

Re: [Child's Name]
[Child's Date of Birth]

Dear Principal [Name]:

I am the [mother/father] of [child's name], a [grade] student at your school. I am writing to express concern about [child's name]'s development and would like to initiate a Special Education evaluation for [child's name].

I understand that a consent form, describing the evaluation procedure, will be provided to me within five (5) school days of this request. I further understand that the evaluation will be completed within thirty (30) school days and that a team meeting will take place within forty-five (45) school days of my consent to the evaluation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact me at [parent's phone number] with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

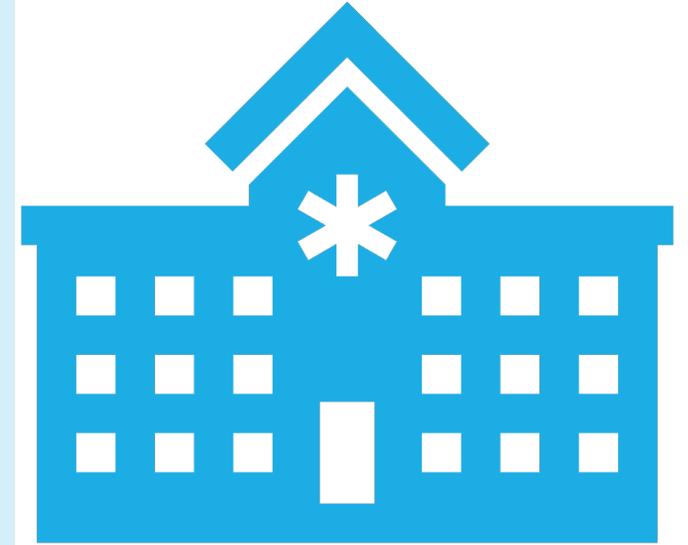
[Parent's Name]

1. My patient is an undocumented immigrant or a migrant in emergency shelter. They need to wait until they are settled into their permanent home: NO

❖ Identification and evaluation of students is a federal and state right regardless of documentation status.

2. My patient attends a parochial, private, or charter school so they are not covered by the public school district responsibilities. NO

❖ The “local” or home school district is the agency that administers the services under federal and state law. The evaluation is done by contacting the home school district. The delivery of services may not be required at the child’s current school, but most outside schools will be happy to look at the TEAM report and see if they can provide accommodations once the testing is completed and the team meeting has occurred.



COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS BY PARENTS OR PEDIATRIC TEAMS...OR EVEN SCHOOLS

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WHO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD CAN ALSO HELP FAMILIES?

Your local school Student Success Team

Your local school district SPED PAC

Federation for Children with Special Needs: Information Center:

<https://fcsn.org/information-center-2/>

Mass Advocates for Children: <https://www.massadvocates.org/special-education>

Boston Public Schools' Special Education Parent Advisory Council (BPS SpEdPAC)

▪ <https://www.bostonspedpac.org/>

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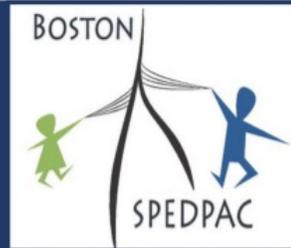


Don't reinvent the wheel! Send your families to the wheel shop and then let them connect with other families and professionals!

Special Education Parent Advisory Council

2023-2024

General Meeting Dates



The Boston Special Education Advisory Council (SpEdPAC) is a group of parent volunteers established under Massachusetts General Law to ensure that Boston Public School students with disabilities get the services and support they need to **develop to their full potential**.

General meetings are organized for Boston SpEdPAC members and focus on a **specific topic** related to supporting Boston Public School students with disabilities.

Parents, guardians, educational advocates of BPS students with disabilities, and BPS students with disabilities age 18 and older, are SpEdPAC members [as well as any other interested party].

Thursdays

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM on ZOOM

**Unless otherwise noted*

- September 28, 2023** | Individualized Education Plans & 504 Plans
- October 26, 2023** | Boston Public Schools Transportation
- November 16, 2023*** | In-Person Resource Fair, 5:00-7:00 PM
- December 16, 2023*** | In-Person Family Social, 1:30-4:00 PM (Saturday)
- January 25, 2024** | Family/Guardian Rights in Special Education
- February 29, 2024** | Educational Settings, Inclusion & Sub-Separate Classrooms
- March 28, 2024** | Support Services for Students with Autism
- April 25, 2024** | Summer Learning for Students with a Disability
- May 23, 2024** | ADHD

Zoom: bit.ly/928SpEdPAC
Meeting ID: 878 9267 0430
Passcode: 874970
Dial-in: +1 (646) 518-9805

Interpretation will be available in:

ASL, Arabic, Cantonese, Cape Verdean Creole, French, Haitian Creole, Mandarin, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish and Vietnamese

To have the zoom link emailed to you, join the [SpEdPAC Email List](https://www.BostonSpEdPAC.org) by visiting: www.BostonSpEdPAC.org

Contact SpEdPAC at: Email@BostonSpEdPAC.org (617) 297-7335

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RESOURCES

Federation: What is an IEP? Video:

<https://youtu.be/BEyURjMHQYI>

Federation: (ALMOST) Everything you need to know in

Massachusetts SPED: <https://fcsn.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/08/pgenglish.pdf>

Department of Education:

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/iep/proguide.pdf>

Special Education Lawyer blog: [https://specialeducation-lawyer.com/2011/11/13/massachusetts-special-education-evaluation-](https://specialeducation-lawyer.com/2011/11/13/massachusetts-special-education-evaluation-timelines/#:~:text=In%20other%20words%2C%20in%20Massachusetts,school%20days%20of%20parental%20consent.)

[timelines/#:~:text=In%20other%20words%2C%20in%20Massachusetts,school%20days%20of%20parental%20consent.](https://specialeducation-lawyer.com/2011/11/13/massachusetts-special-education-evaluation-timelines/#:~:text=In%20other%20words%2C%20in%20Massachusetts,school%20days%20of%20parental%20consent.)

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START CREATING AN ANNUAL PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR CHILD FIND AND OTHER REFERRALS

[Home](#) | [District News](#) | [Early Childhood Screening for Special Needs](#)

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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[Academics](#) | [Activities](#) | [Current Families](#) | [Important Information](#) | [Student Support](#)

Early Childhood Screening for Special Needs

Worcester Public Schools is offering free developmental screenings for children ages 3 or 4. Do you have concerns about your child's development? Get your child evaluated by a professional!

Make an appointment by Oct. 31 by emailing arena@worcesterschools.net or calling 508-799-8165.

Is your child having trouble with:

- Vision or hearing
- Learning
- Speech/Language
- Behavior
- Physical Movement skills.

Benefits of early screening:

- **Academic:** Identifying learning difficulties while kids' brains are still being formed makes it easier to intervene. Kids can receive extra help sooner so they don't fall behind.
- **Social and emotional:** When kids' needs are identified and addressed early they may not need special education services later.
- **Economic:** Early intervention helps students graduate high school and get jobs.

Note:
 If the child cannot be accompanied by a parent, please notify us beforehand.

Recent News

- [Message from Superintendent on Leveling the Field](#)
- [October 12, 2023](#)
- [October](#)
- [Dr. Marianne Proulx Update on Safety Protocols in WPS](#)
- [October 5, 2023](#)




CHILD FIND

BOSTON Public Schools

Child Find Screenings (3-4 year olds)

This is a screening for 3-4 year old children who are not presently attending the Boston Public Schools and are residents of the City of Boston.

Screening Dates:

- Tuesday, October 4, 2022
- Tuesday, November 8, 2022
- Friday, December 9, 2022
- Tuesday, March 7, 2023
- Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Location:

- Campbell Resource Center/Dorchester Welcome Center
1216 Dorchester Ave, Dorchester, MA 02125
- Endicott Elementary School
2 Mclellan Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

Child Find Screenings (6-21 year olds)

This is a screening for 6-21 year old students, who are:

- Boston residents but attend a private or parochial school (non-charter) or are homeschooled in Boston
- OR are a resident of another district but attend a private or parochial school in Boston.

Screening Dates:

- Thursday, October 27, 2022
- Thursday, November 17, 2022
- Wednesday, December 14, 2022
- Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Location:

- Boston Latin Academy
443 Warren Street, Dorchester, MA 02121
- Endicott Elementary School
2 Mclellan Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

While Boston Public Schools conducts screening activities, if you suspect or know that your child has a disability, please contact the Office of Special Education for a full evaluation for special education services. You do not need to attend a screening date to request an evaluation.

Visit our website to sign up: BillJoyChildFind@bostonpublicschools.org
 Questions? ChildFind@bostonpublicschools.org

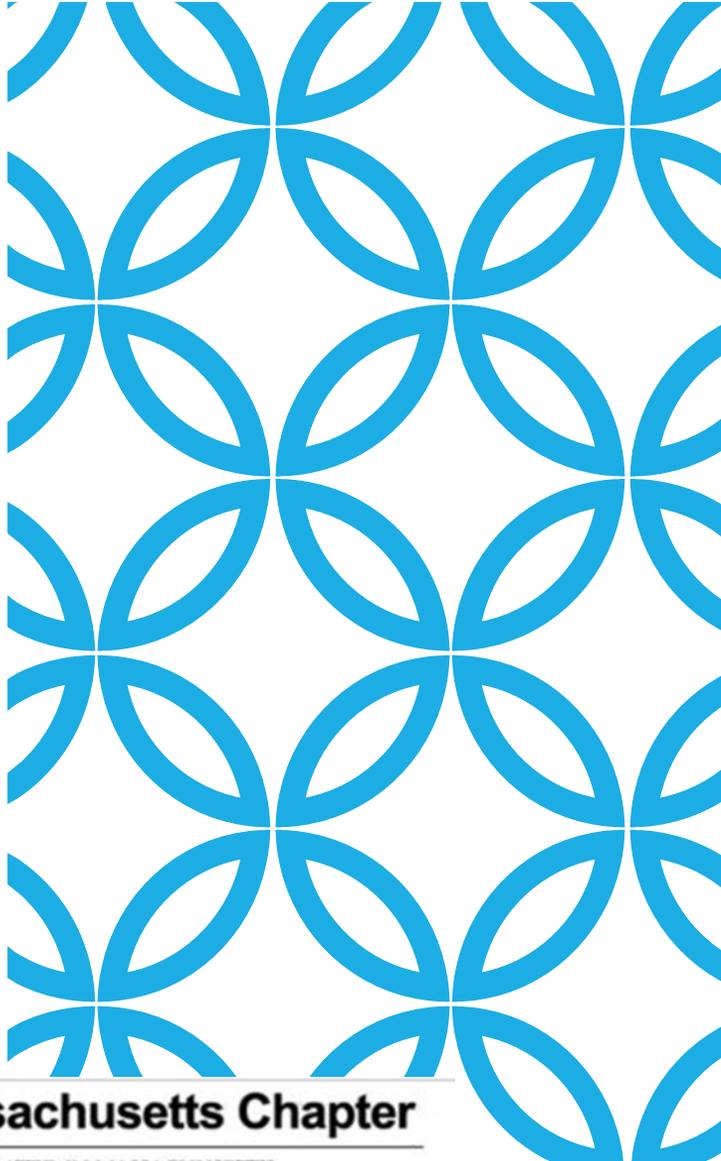
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ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
GATHERING TO IMPROVE THESE
PRACTICES IN YOUR PEDIATRIC
TEAM OR ADVOCATE FOR BETTER?

*Join the MCAAP School Health Committee
Contact Executive Director Cathleen
Haggerty at chaggerty@mcaap.org*

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