

# Spring Renewal

## Tips For Your Special Education Parent Group

Spring breaks are behind us and the end of the school year is within sight. What a great time to take a look at your special education parent group in order to re-ignite your efforts and excitement for improving programs for children and youth receiving special education services.

- **Adopt and/or readopt a mission statement:** Know where you are going and how you will get there.
- **Invite:** Ask members to reach out to people they know to build up your membership.
- **Diversify perspectives:** Diverse racial and cultural perspectives enrich discussions and decisions. Be intentional about the composition of the group. Actively seek out missing voices.
- **Use your voice:** Speak out on behalf of children with disabilities in your community for services, for inclusion, against budget cuts . . .
- **Create conversations:** Encourage members to share their stories, needs, and lessons learned with each other and with policy makers.
- **Ask questions:** You'll get more information when you ask questions. Get answers, ask more questions and take action.
- **Establish credibility:** List your SEAC's accomplishments, present them to your school board, your town's disability office, your local PTA/HSA/PTO, include them on your webpage, your brochure, and other publications.
- **Meet regularly:** Meetings should be regular, but not too frequent. People are busy. Use meeting time effectively.
- **Focus:** Set annual priorities and specific goals to accomplish.
- **Celebrate results:** Make a noticeable difference, then, celebrate! Recognizing results is energizing and contagious.

*Hope you'll try these tips out and let us know how they work for you.*

*Spring is a time for planting the seeds that make a difference!*