



SEPAC MEETING

WHEN: April 16th at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Salem High School, 77 Willson St., Salem

WHAT is SEPAC: Special Education Parent Advisory Council

WHO should attend: Parents/guardians whose children receive Special Ed services, or who think their child might have learning, behavioral, or attention issues.

This is a district wide council and everyone that has concerns, and questions, or interests about Special Education are invited.

Special Guest:

Congressman John Tierney

Massachusetts Sixth District Representative

Will discuss No Child Left Behind, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and the Alternative Paths to Teaching Act

LIMITED CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THOSE ATTENDING

If you would like additional information,

contact Katerina Thompson at

kthompson@salemsepac.org or 978 745-6211.



Issues Congressman Tierney has authored and will discuss at Salem SEPAC's April 16th, 2009 Meeting

At Salem High School, 77 Willson St., Salem, Ma 01970

Strengthening our Schools

Strongly believing that the quality of teachers in the classroom determines the quality of education our children receive, Congressman Tierney authored legislation entitled the **Alternative Paths to Teaching Act**, which would encourage America's best and brightest students to enter the teaching profession in order to ensure fully qualified teachers in every classroom. Congressman Tierney is working to incorporate this pivotal bill into broader legislation governing teacher training programs.

Congressman Tierney maintains that it should be Congress's goal to correct aspects of the **No Child Left Behind Act** (NCLB) that have been generally recognized as "in need of improvement" and to ensure that enough resources are available to states and local districts for educators to actually have the opportunity to raise children's level of learning and close achievement gaps.

Congressman Tierney has long believed that there is much more that Congress must do to live up to its promise of adequately funding education. For this reason, he is an original co-sponsor (original proponent and introducer of a measure or an amendment) of the **Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers (PACT) Act** (H.R. 627), which would require complete funding for NCLB as well as the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** (IDEA). The legislation is pending in two congressional committees.

Educating All Children at an Early Age

Congressman Tierney is a strong advocate of early education initiatives. Knowing that an estimated 80% of three year olds in Massachusetts are not enrolled in a state pre-K or Head Start program, Congressman Tierney has been working to improve and expand the federal government's commitment to Head Start, which is our country's primary early education program.

To that end, Congressman Tierney along with his colleagues on the committee developed legislation that renews Head Start programs in a way that improves teacher quality and helps serve more children. The bill included an increase of funds for teacher and staff salaries and professional development. Congressman Tierney also noted that the measure, which passed the House and now awaits consideration by the Senate, would also better prepare children for school by reevaluating and updating current learning standards. During the debate, Congressman Tierney spoke on the House floor in support of the bill. This legislation, which is known as the Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, was approved by the Senate and signed into law in December 2007.

Salem SEPAC does not endorse candidates running for or in public office.