



1530 S. Main Street, Suite 4, Joplin, MO 64804  
Phone: 800.743.7634  
Fax: 636.387.6296  
www.missouriparentsact.org

**Board of  
Directors:**

Clara Magoon  
*Chair*

Melissa Dewald  
*Vice Chair*

Susan Crespino  
*Treasurer*

Melanie Southworth  
*Secretary*

Timothy Christian  
*Member*

Melba Hale  
*Member*

Louis Gatewood  
*Member*

Daniel Mellenthin  
*Member*

Donald Rutherford  
*Member*

Lauren Young  
*Member*

January 1, 2021

Dear Potential Board Member,

MPACT (Missouri Parents Act) is looking for enthusiastic individuals to help develop a diverse community-based board of directors. We seek members with a broad variety of backgrounds, ethnicities and experience, people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities, people with experience with other children's issues, people simply interested in child education, people with fundraising expertise, business professionals, and educators.

MPACT is a Missouri statewide, non-profit parent training information center, which provides special education training workshops and disseminates information and resources about such education and provides one-on-one advocacy coaching and mentoring through an extensive, statewide network of parent volunteers who are supported by MPACT staff. MPACT is funded primarily through grants from the United States Office of Special Education Programs and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Through its programs and collaboration with other agencies, MPACT empowers thousands of Missouri families to become more involved in their children's education, to participate in team efforts to improve the quality of children's education, and to enable the self-sufficiency of children who otherwise would have become dependents of the State.

Please review the enclosed Board Member Application Packet to understand what we do and what your responsibilities as a board member working board! Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.

If you are interested in a rewarding position that improves the educational opportunity for children with disabilities, this is the place for you! If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this position, visit our website: [www.missouriparentsact.org](http://www.missouriparentsact.org) or contact the MPACT Board at : [info@missouriparentsact.org](mailto:info@missouriparentsact.org).

Thank you for your interest.

*Clara Magoon*  
Clara Magoon  
MPACT Board of Directors Chairperson

*Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.*



## **Executive Summary**

### **About Us**

MPACT is a statewide, nonprofit organization that empowers thousands of Missouri parents to become more involved in their children's education, to participate in team efforts to improve the quality of children's education, and to enable the self-sufficiency of children with disabilities.

We have two core programs: the Parent Training and Information Center, which provides special education training workshops and information and resource dissemination, and the Parent Mentor Program, which provides one-on-one advocacy, coaching and mentoring through an extensive network of volunteers, supported by MPACT staff. We also have a STELLAR Project that serves families and youth transitioning from high school to adult life and beyond. We are funded through grants from the United States Office of Special Education Programs and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

### **Target Audience and Services**

Our primary goal is to assist parents in their efforts to advocate effectively for their children's educational rights and services. Located throughout Missouri, MPACT staff and volunteers work with individual families, parent groups, public and private agencies, professional organizations, schools and school districts and advocacy groups to achieve that goal.

We provide training sessions on a variety of subjects throughout Missouri, throughout the year. We maintain up-to-date information and training opportunities online as well.

All MPACT materials, training, support and mentoring services are provided FREE of charge.



## **Board Member Expectations**

Thank you for your interest in serving the MPACT Board of Directors. Here we outline some of the current requirements and expectations of board members. MPACT Board Members must reside in Missouri.

### **Training and Education**

There are a number of areas where a new member may not have expertise when they join our board. Our Orientation Packet will seem unmanageable at first! But there will be training and support for new members as they become accustomed to our policies, procedures, many acronyms, and laws governing our provision of services and laws governing how our board must operate. Also – we are a friendly, welcoming bunch – so questions are always welcome.

### **Quarterly Board Meetings & Retreats**

We conduct four meetings per year, generally in a central location of the state or via a virtual platform. Each meeting is approximately four hours long. Once a year, in connection with a regular board meeting, the board has a retreat, involving an overnight stay, at which we work as a team on long- term planning, board education and other time-intensive activities. Reimbursement for mileage is available.

We conduct a number of meetings throughout the year electronically. These may be planned well in advance, for conferring and voting on live issues between quarterly meetings, or may be on much shorter notice, as circumstances arise requiring the board's attention. In addition, internal board committee meetings often are online.

Absence of any two consecutive absences from meetings or any two absences within the same year without prior notice to the board Secretary or MPACT Executive Director will trigger a review by the Governance Committee.

### **Committees**

Each board member must serve on at least one standing committee, and volunteer to participate on *ad hoc* committees as the need arises. MPACT's standing committees are the Executive Committee, the Internal Affairs Committee, the External Affairs Committee and the Governance Committee. Each committee carries ongoing responsibilities described in the by-laws and MPACT's strategic plan.



## **Fundraising**

The MPACT Board of Directors is responsible for all fundraising outside of our state and federal grants. We are new to these activities, but with a new fundraising plan, we are looking to really grow in skill, efficiency and results! Each board member is expected to participate in and attend each fundraising event.

Each board member must make a personal financial contribution to MPACT in an amount that is meaningful to them and demonstrates commitment to MPACT's mission.

## **Other time commitments**

In addition to formal meetings, each board member is expected to spend time between meetings completing research on committee tasks, assigned tasks, supporting fundraising efforts, self-education on special education issues and laws or on other general nonprofit board issues.

## **Other Details**

We expect our board members to advocate the mission of MPACT in the community!

Board Members serve a term of three years, with an option of renewal for another three- year term. After two terms, a board member must leave the board for at least one year, after which the member may reapply for board service.

Maintains confidentiality. Ensures no conflict of interest between the interests of MPACT personal, professional, and business interests. This includes avoiding actual conflicts of interest as well as perceptions of conflicts of interest.

## **Questions?**

Please contact us with any questions you have after reviewing the materials in this packet and the MPACT webpage at [www.missouriparentsact.org](http://www.missouriparentsact.org).

The board can be contacted by emailing [info@missouriparentsact.org](mailto:info@missouriparentsact.org).



**MPACT BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPLICATION**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:**

Phone #s (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Work): \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

(Fax): \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Eligible applicants must be residents of Missouri.

1. Please describe your past and present experiences and expertise you believe are relevant or helpful to serving as a member of the MPACT Board of Directors:

2. Why are you interested in serving on this board?

***Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.***





7. Do you have volunteer community service experience? Please describe that experience, going back as far into your history as you think is helpful:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What other organizations, parent support groups or advisory committees do you support (with either time, money, or otherwise)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How can you help MPACT to make a difference in the community?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Do you feel that you will be able to meet MPACT's board member time commitments? These are described in the MPACT Board Member Fact Sheet, included in this packet.

***Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.***



11. What expectations do you have of MPACT and your service to this organization?

12. Will you be willing to commit financially to MPACT?

13. Are you a parent of a child with a disability: Yes No Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

14. Are you a person with a disability: Yes No

Please list 2-3 references:

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Years Known: \_\_\_\_\_

***Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.***





If you are a current board member or a community member nominating this person as an MPACT Board Member please describe the special reasons for your consideration:

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information for Person providing recommendation (if any):

Phone #s (Home): \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell): \_\_\_\_\_

(FAX): \_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: MPACT Governance Committee  
1530 S Main  
Street Suite 4  
Joplin, MO 64804

Email to: [info@missouriparentsact.org](mailto:info@missouriparentsact.org)

Fax to: 636.387.6296

***Empowering families to advocate for themselves so that children with special educational needs can reach their full potential in education and life – through support, training and education.***