



St. Charles Parish Public Schools
2023-2024 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report
May 20, 2024

Special Education Advisory Council

R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

Members and Roles

Member	Role
Mendy Van Hoven	Director of Special Education
Cierra Puryear	Parent Liaison
Victoria Bryant	Executive Director of The Arc of St. Charles
Kathryn Foster	Parent
Erin Baker	Parent
Precious Alexander	Parent
Jessica Rownd	Parent
Lolita Grant	Parent
Amber Pinero	Parent
Breah Alario	Special Education Teacher
Lindsey Hinkle	Paraprofessional
Dameion Dabney	Paraprofessional

General Meeting Information

The St. Charles Parish Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) established a quorum for each meeting date. Meeting agendas (including date, time, and location) were posted to the district website two weeks before the meeting date and emailed to all council members.

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	Agenda & Minutes
Tuesday, December 5, 2023 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	Agenda & Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	Agenda & Minutes

Summary of SEAC Highlights and Accomplishments

Special Education Initiatives

The Special Education Department's latest initiatives were shared with the council, showcasing collaborative partnerships with external providers aimed at fostering growth among students, teachers, and paraprofessionals.

IDEA Funding Allocations

The council received an update on the current allocation of IDEA funding. Members were provided the opportunity to offer input and feedback regarding potential future priorities for funding allocation. Following these discussions, the district has decided to collaborate with the Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorder Project (LASARD) for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This partnership aims to offer educational opportunities to families of students with disabilities, focusing on implementing functional communication supports, executive functioning supports, and behavioral supports within home and community environments.

Parent Resources

Julie Folse, Assistant Director of Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF), provided council members with insights into how their services support both families and schools. Christina Kozic, Community Engagement Specialist for Exceptional Lives, also participated in a Special Education Parent Support Group meeting. The valuable information shared during this session was captured in a live video. This video highlights how Exceptional Lives serves as an invaluable resource for parents and special education professionals.

Recognizing the importance of facilitating access to these resources, members emphasized the need for the district to streamline the process of informing parents about available support services from regional and local organizations, and the district itself. Consequently, the special education department has undertaken the initiative to develop a comprehensive brochure showcasing regional, parish, and district resources. These brochures will be distributed to parents at various events throughout the school year, including IEP meetings, ensuring that parents have easy access to information about the support networks available to them.

Child Find

The district's Speech, Language, Hearing/Child Search Coordinator, Christina Lott, provided an overview of Child Find processes and requested suggestions for improvement. As a result, Child Find informational flyers will be provided to local pediatricians and various district events and locations.

Areas of Improvement, Next Steps, and Possible Initiatives for the 2024-2025 School Year

- Create an additional tab for the special education section of the district website for parent resources. Possibly include resources and upcoming events in the community and surrounding areas.
- Identify ways that SEAC members can be involved in more outreach opportunities to encourage parent engagement.
- Develop and provide parent education/learning opportunities on topics including developmental milestones, social-emotional learning, and tutorship vs. conservatorship.
- Continue monthly parent support group meetings throughout the school year.
- Include an additional SEAC meeting for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Consider alternating the time that SEAC meetings are held.

How to Join

There are currently no vacancies at this time. All appointed seats are for a two-year term. New appointments will be selected for the 2025-2026 school year by May 2025. For those wanting to apply for the 2025-2026 school year, the application will be shared via email to administrators, teachers, parents of students with disabilities, and posted to the district's social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) in March 2025. Applications will also be available online on the district's website ([St. Charles Parish Public Schools](#)) and paper copies will be available at the front desk of Central Office.