

St. Mary Parish School Board

Special Education Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

The Special Education Advisory Council met on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., in the Evans Medine Room at the Central Office Complex in Centerville, Louisiana.

The meeting was called to order Dr. Comeaux at the scheduled time.

Dr. Fegenbush conducted the roll call as follows:

Present: Dr. Brianna Comeaux, Ms. Melissa Lee, Mr. Avery Price, Dr. Julie Price, and Ms. Jennifer Collins Lanceslin.

Absent: Ms. Keren Jamison, Ms. Adrianna Barto, Ms. Walleeta August, and Ms. Nekima Jack.

A quorum was reached with five members in attendance of the meeting.

Approval of Committee Minutes:

Ms. Lee made a motion, and Ms. Lanceslin offered the second to approve the minutes from the Special Education Advisory Committee held on September 23, 2024, as presented. All in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion of School Building Level Committee: Purpose and Process:

The School Building Level Committee (SBLC) process in Louisiana is a structured approach used to identify and support students who may have academic, behavioral, or other needs that impact their success in school. It serves as a pre-referral step before determining if a student requires special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Purpose of the SBLC:

- Acts as the referral process for students experiencing academic or behavioral difficulties, or who may be gifted/talented.
- Meets regularly
- Reviews new referrals
- May follow up on existing referrals

Discussion of the Difference between 504 and 1508.

Section 504 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability in programs receiving federal funds.

Parents must be provided with notice of actions regarding the identification, evaluation and placement of their children, but this does not have to be written.

Consent required prior to initial evaluation.

Students in public schools, who meet eligibility criteria established by the federal statute and as determined by the School Building Level Committee (SBLC).

A student must meet the definition of a student with a disability which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

Requires reasonable accommodation and services to provide equal access to programs, services, and activities.

Includes both academic and non-academic activities.

The Individual Accommodation Plan (IAP) is specific regulations and funding laws developed for students who meet 504 eligibility criteria.

A written plan which provides documentation of a student's eligibility and accommodation needed due to the limitations associated with the disability.

Parents must be provided with written notice of actions regarding the identification, evaluation and placement of their children.

Parents must provide written consent prior to the initial evaluation and the initial placement of their child.

Updated each year to reevaluate students to see if they still have a disability.

May not be developed for the sole purpose of providing accommodation on statewide assessments.

Compliance is not optional, and schools must adhere to 504 mandates.

Special Olympics Bowling Update:

Ms. McClarity reported that the Special Olympics Bowling event on October 25, 2024, at Steelwood Lanes in Morgan City was a great success.

Comments from Committee Members or Attendees:

Ms. McClarity and Dr. Fegenbush extended thanks to school administrators, staff, and faculty for the care given to the children of special needs who participated in the Special Olympics Bowling event. Special thanks were also given to the different organizations for their support.

Adjournment:

With there being no further business, Ms. Lee made a motion and Mrs. Lanceslin made a second to adjourn the meeting at 5:01 p.m. All in favor and the motion carried.