



**St. Charles Parish Public Schools**  
**2024-2025 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report**  
**May 2025**

**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 (resigned Nov. 2024)

**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 25, 2024 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	<a href="#">Agenda &amp; Minutes</a>
Tuesday, December 4, 2024 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	<a href="#">Agenda &amp; Minutes</a>
Tuesday, March 19, 2025 9:00AM - 10:30AM	Professional Learning Center 12727 US-90 Luling, LA 70070	<a href="#">Agenda &amp; Minutes</a>

## Executive Summary

### Overview of Special Education

During the 2024-2025 school year, St. Charles Parish Public Schools provided special education services to more than 1,300 students with disabilities.

#### *Performance Data*

According to LEAP data from the 2023-2024 school year, 16% of students with disabilities in grades 3–8 achieved Mastery or above in all subjects—a three-point increase from the previous year. Similarly, 15% of high school students with disabilities reached Mastery or above in all subjects, also reflecting a three-point improvement compared to the prior year.

#### *Financial Data*

St. Charles Parish Public Schools receives funding to support students with disabilities through a combination of federal, state, and local sources. Approximately 78% of total funding is dedicated to specialized supports and services, 77% is allocated to salaries and stipends for support staff and contracted professionals who provide direct services to students.

#### *Compliance Data*

A desk review audit of the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B indicators was conducted at the conclusion of the 2023–2024 school year, with findings reported in February 2025. The Louisiana Department of Education, Division of Statewide Monitoring, identified no areas of systemic noncompliance within the IDEA Part B program in the St. Charles Parish School System. Some student-specific findings were identified and promptly corrected by school personnel within the required timeline.

An audit of Indicator 11 (percent of children with parental consent to evaluate who were evaluated within the 60-day timeline) for the 23-24 school year was conducted and two non-compliant cases were identified. Staff identified actions to prevent future non-compliance and reported to the state.

An audit of Indicator 12 for the 2023–2024 school year identified instances of noncompliance. For Local Education Agencies (LEAs), any result below 100 percent is considered noncompliant. In response, procedures were revised, and key steps were integrated into the Network Application enrollment process to ensure that services are appropriately considered for students experiencing residency issues.

### 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 an overview of how funding has been allocated from the 2023-2024 to the 2024-2025 school year. Following these discussions, the district has decided to continue to collaborate with the Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorder Project (LASARD) for the upcoming 2025-2026 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.

#### *LEA Determination*

The council was provided an update of SpEd performance for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school year. The council was able to see and compare data from both years. Ms. Mendy Van Hoven, Director of Special Education shared how the district is addressing the needs and challenges of students.

#### *State Testing Data*

The council was provided an update of the Special Education Subgroup 2023-2024 LEAP Data.

#### *Parent Resources*

Julie Folse, Program Director of Nicholls State University Bridge to Independence Program provided an overview of the degree pathways that are available to students with autism and other intellectual disabilities. Ms. Folse explained the requirements of each (degree/certificate) program and its eligibility process. Ms. Folse shared about housing, skills taught in independent living courses, how staff supports students, and how schedules typically look for students enrolled in the BTI program. For the future, Ms. Folse plans to present in the Fall and Spring to middle and high school parents beginning the 2025-26 school year.

#### *Transition*

The council was provided an update on school to school and year to year transition plans that began to take place beginning in March. SpEd teachers, SpEd staff, instructional facilitators, and principals began collaborating to best support students as they transition either from grade to grade or school to school. In regards to transition, council members were able to provide parent feedback to ensure all parents and students are provided a smooth transition experience. Parent feedback will be shared with administration and teachers.

#### *Parent Communication*

The council provided suggestions of how to improve effective communication strategies between parents and teachers. Parents gave suggestions of daily, weekly, and beginning of the year information parents would like to be updated on about their child's day/progress. Parent suggestions will be shared with instructional facilitators, teachers, and administration.

#### **Parent Engagement**

Parent engagement across the district is elicited by social media platforms and electronic communication. Parents of students with disabilities have the opportunity to participate in multiple Parent Meetings with various topics to support their child in the school and at home. The Special Education Parent Liaison routinely provides information to parents regarding school-based and community-based information including but not limited to Special Olympics, LASARD Parent Supports, Post-School Transition, and Early Steps Transition.

### **Areas of Improvement, Next Steps, and Possible Initiatives for the 2025-2026 School Year**

- Identify ways that SEAC members can be involved in more outreach opportunities to encourage parent engagement.
- Continue monthly parent meetings throughout the school year.
- Have Julie Folse, Program Director of NSU Bridge to Independence program present to families in the Fall and Spring

### **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 2027-2028 school year by May 2028. For those wanting to apply, the application will be shared via email to administrators, teachers, parents of students with disabilities, and posted to the district's social media by April 2028. 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.