



Sec. 8 Minnesota Statutes 2004, section 125A.24 (PACs)

In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policymaking and decision-making, school districts must have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

Attendees: Annette Lee, Anthony Walker, Gina Paton, Heidi Nistler, Joel Van Valin, Lisa Reiter, Kathryn Mommaers, Katie Huttemier, Kimberly Totushek, Kristi Rogalla, Oanh Nguyen, Rachael Sewell, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Salma Siddiqui, Rob Lindberg, Amy Eelkema, Jonathan Breyen, Jackie Kelly
19 people: 7 of 18 members, 11 staff, 1 guest

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes Approved

Date: 02-10-2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Virtually via Google Meet

NEW link: <https://meet.google.com/dde-zdzc-yxi>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-226-1936 PIN: 260 330 309#

6:00 p.m. Housekeeping, Welcome, Member & Guest Introductions

6:20 p.m. Approve [January minutes](#)

6:25 p.m. Community Education (CE), Tony Walker, Director Community Education, Katy Mommaerts & Rob Lindberg

Objective: To understand what the community knows about Community Ed and gain insight in how to reach those who are unfamiliar. Collect input on program offerings, locations, etc. Based on information received, CE leadership will make appropriate decisions with the collected data.

Community Education conducts a community needs assessments every few years. The Community Education audience is 310,000. The objective is to improve upon not replicate programs being offered. Majority of money comes from fees collected.

Inclusion:

- Aides are welcomed to be part of programming: If a person requires an aide to participate the aide is required to attend the program.
- Child/adult paring: Gymnastics offers child/adult paired programming

- Inclusion Manager: Discovery Club has an Inclusion Manager that works with families to write a plan that includes student supports and incentives.

Swimming lessons offered in warm pools at a variety of locations including Como Elementary; registration fills quickly.

UPCOMING REGISTRATION: Spring/Summer registration opens March 13th at 9 a.m. Popular classes fill quickly.

Marketing:

The CE catalog is still the main vehicle for advertising. Peach Jar is used to share information for SPPS schools.

Parent programming request: fishing and hiking

7:10 p.m. SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Director Special Education

The State of SPPS Special Education

January/February

- **Who are our students?**
 - *How many students receive special education services?*
For the last 3 years, the growth in our students with disabilities has far outpaced the growth in students without disabilities
 - *What are the demographics of the students receiving special education services?*
 - *How has this changed over time?*

February

- **How are our students doing?**
 - *Are students with disabilities making progress academically?*
 - *What are our biggest areas of academic need?*

MCA/MTAS

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills

MCA is a Statewide test that shows overall how students in a district are meeting the standards in math, reading and science. Eligibility for MTAS is only for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

- *The overall proficiencies for students who receive special education include all students in all disability categories.*
- *MCA/MTAS parents have the right to opt out; which counts as not having a proficient score.*
- *One test one time of the year. It looks at whether a student shows proficiency.*

FAST Assessments

A formative assessment that is administered to all students several times per year to show growth. It helps identify how a student is doing and if they need additional support or intervention.

Data is showing over the last couple of years more students are growing in their skills and fewer are needing interventions. We are seeing gains in reading scores for individual students.

How do kids show what they know when their disability impacts their ability to show what they know? Accommodations are discussed at IEP meetings: extended time, a scribe, chunked information, different assessments can be used.

There has been an increase in

The district is implementing a new curriculum; science is not typically an area where we are teaching for special education. The skills are taught to learn science.

E.C.- 12th grade teachers are required to take training in the Science of Reading. The General Education curriculum aligns with the Science of Reading. All curriculum is research science based. There is a new math curriculum that is showing great progress.

Specialized Services is prioritizing math and has a new curriculum.

There are different tiers of intervention and support. Students that are receiving specialized services don't typically qualify for Reading or Math Core as they are already receiving additional support through special education.

SPPS is committed to, and holds, keeping students and staff safe a priority. SPPS has many policies and procedures in place. Laws that surround immigration are nuanced; it is important to share and inform people in our community of available resources. Important to note, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), is not like the CIA that would sneak into schools, ICE would follow the rules.

7:40 p.m. Forum, Reflection and Resource Moment

Pacer Parent Leadership Training

- All sessions will be facilitated via Zoom from 4 – 6 p.m. on
- Dates: Tues 2/18/25, Thurs 2/20/25, Tues 2/25/25, Thurs 2/27/25, and Tues 3/4/25

8:05 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting- March 10, 2025 Hybrid meeting