



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: Joel Van Valin, Oanh Nguyen, Christina Locke, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Rachel Sewell, Amy Eelkema Baxter, Mayra Mariscal, Amy Johnson, Heidi Nistler, Jackie Kelly, Sarah Zielinski, Salma Siddiqui, Jackson, Khia, Penny Griffin, Abby, Michael Shepperd.

18 people: 7 of 17 members, 5 staff, 6 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

Date: 5-12-2025

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

In Person: Administration Building, 360 Colborne St. room A. (5:30-6:00 p.m. light meal and connecting).

Virtually: Google Meet NEW link <https://meet.google.com/tvc-n>

6:08 p.m. What is SEAC:

SEAC is a group of parents, guardians, staff and community members that meet monthly "to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in policymaking and decision-making".

How does SEAC work:

At SEAC meetings members are informed and share input to improve programs and systems for students with disabilities and their families.

Housekeeping, Welcome & Member & Guest Introductions

What are Parents Supposed To Do At SEAC?

- **Learn** something that will benefit your child.
- **Share** what you learn with people in your community (neighbor, friend, child's teacher....).
- **Ask questions and share input.**

Member & Guest Introductions

- Share your name, if you're a member or guest and a little about yourself or your child and how has your child or a student you work with amazed you?

[May 2025 Agenda](#)

6:15 p.m. Approve Minutes [April 2025 Minutes](#)

Rhonda Morrison moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Minutes were approved and passed.

6:20 p.m. Student Panel.

Kathleen from Focus Beyond, Khia and Jackson from Washington Tech. Magnet School shared some of their thoughts and experiences as students in the St. Paul School District.

1. What does a good day at school look like for you?

I get to go to General Education classes. I go to class and see other students.
I want to talk to them. I don't always know what to say.

2. What advice would you give to younger students?

Be yourself!,

Say yes to whatever interests you. I helped plan Jr. Prom,

It may be frustrating- keep going, you'll work as a team.

3. What advice would you give to parents?

4. If you were Ruler of the World what would you keep the same about school? What would you change?

No phones or headphones!

Offer school musicals.

5. Is there a story that you would like to share? Something that is positive? Or something that was difficult?

I did cheerleading and track.

I can assist at the Eagle Coffee Shop, to serve the customers who order and to greet people.

6. What are your hopes for your future—school, career, or life in general?

I would like to live in my own house and have parties.

To be a Dr. in Florida.

To help people with their computers.

7:20 pm SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services.

Special Education Programs Names

- Currently, specialized (setting 3) programs are referred to by the most common disabilities of students in the programs
 - ASD/DCD
 - EBD
- However, many students served in these programs do not have these disabilities
 - Not inclusive of all students
 - Focus on disability name does not emphasize student's strengths
- Many districts have transitioned from disability-based program names to meaningful words or acronyms

Changing SPED programs names promotes Inclusion, avoids stigmatizing language, highlights strengths and support, builds respect and belonging.

Mandatory Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) in special education refers to required activities and supports that a district must implement when it is found to have **significant disproportionality** in the identification, placement, or discipline of students with disabilities based on race or ethnicity.

- Purpose is to early support, reduce discipline, build capacity
- Required by IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

- Target Group: Primarily directed toward students who are not currently identified as needing special education, but under mandatory CEIS, the funds can be used for students with disabilities as well
- A district is mandated to use 15% of its IDEA Part B funds for CEIS when the state identifies it as having significant disproportionality
 - Saint Paul Public Schools: Approx. \$1.4 million per year
 - Required for 3 years, can choose to continue past 3 years

Mandatory CEIS: Why are we here?

- 3 years of disproportionality in suspensions
 - Based on school years 21-22, 22-23, and 23-24
 - Risk ratio of 3.0: *Black or African American students with disabilities are more than three times as likely to be suspended compared to all students (overall dismissals AND more than 10 cumulative days of suspension)*
 - See next slide
- Required CEIS plan & \$1.4M funding
 - Plan due to MDE by July 1, 2025
 - Must address areas of disproportionality - students with and without disabilities
- Parent input is essential
 - Public reporting is required
 - Partnership with SEAC for planning and communication

What can mandatory CEIS funds be used for?

- **Professional development** for teachers and other school staff to deliver strong academic and behavioral interventions
- Providing educational and behavioral **evaluations, services, and supports**

Mandatory CEIS Next Steps:

May

- Attending MDE webinars
- Starting to gather some preliminary input (principals)

June

- Create tentative plan, get additional feedback/input
- Write application on how we will use these funds
- Create job descriptions, post positions

July/August

- Prepare for upcoming school year - communication to schools, SEAC, Board of Education

Summer Resources

[Pacer Center](#)

[Boost your child's learning over the summer](#)

[Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative- Families Bulletin Board](#)

[MN Disability Hub](#)

St. Paul Parks and Recreation

[Summer camps and activities](#)

[Adapted Recreation](#)

[MN State Parks](#)

[Summer activities](#)

[I can! programs](#)

8:10 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting- Monday, June 2nd 2025, Hybrid meeting