



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 Richardson, Rhonda Morrison, Kathleen Morrison, Rachel Sewell, Amy Eelkema Baxter, Mayra Mariscal, Heidi Nistler, Salma Siddiqui.

10 people: 7 of 17 members, 2 staff, 1 guests

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Minutes

Date: 6-2-2025

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

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

Virtually: Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/tvc-nhuh-ugx>

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?

June 2025 Agenda

6:10 p.m. Approve Minutes May Minutes

Rachel Sewell moved to approve SEAC meeting minutes, Christina Richardson seconded. Minutes were approved and passed.

6:15 p.m. Review SEAC Year-End Report and discuss topics, initiatives and goals for next year.

Goals for next school year 25-26:

- Continuing to welcome new members and hosting a student panel once per year.
- Completing the "Introduction to Special Education" brochure and collaborating with the department to create a Welcome Letter that could be shared with families of new Special Education students.

- Including guests and discussion topics from outside of SPPS, such as representatives from the St. Paul Public Library.
- Reserving 20–25 minutes at each meeting for an open forum, allowing members to connect and share experiences.
- Studying the effects of screen time on education, and how guidelines may differ for students in Special Education.
- Inviting Dr. Stanley to attend a future SEAC meeting.

The following updates and ideas were also discussed:

- The possibility of meeting in late summer to watch the *Inclusion* documentary.
- Tentative date for our first meeting next school year: September 15 2025. Heidi Nistler and Jackie Kelly will confirm this date.
- Oanh and Joel will present their report to the school board, the date is still to be determined.

7:15 p.m. SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Services

SPPS Special Education Media Highlights

Pioneer Press: [SPPS Student's Muffin Recipe to be Used District-Wide](#)

WCCO: [A Program is Making Biking Accessible for All Students](#)

Upcoming Pioneer Press Article: SPPS International Special Education Teachers. The idea of inviting International Special Education Teachers is raised.

Transfer of Rights Overview

Questions were brought forward from School Board member about rights of 18-year-old students

- Developed guidance for special education staff and principals
- Intent is to clarify legal requirements while emphasizing importance of family involvement

[Special Education Transfer of Rights Overview](#)

Mandatory CEIS Overview

- Feedback from school administrators
 - Want support to problem-solve with students, teams, and families
 - Will invest in general education and special education Problem-Solving Team
 - Will invest in Check and Connect
 - Mentoring program for students
 - Discussed Check and Connect a few months ago
- Goals:
 - Intervene for students that are demonstrating patterns indicating they are being dismissed or suspended at higher-than-expected levels
 - Connection and support for families

Special Education At-A-Glance Booklet

- Jackie received feedback about the printed booklet
 - Font
 - Some sections were blurry
 - Some colors were faded or made words hard to read
- Communications is working to make these changes
- Will have printed booklets ready this fall

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

During the meeting, the difficulty parents have in receiving communication in Focus Beyond (even if they are still the tutors) was discussed, as well as the cases in which students in group 3 are not actually allowed to leave the classroom to be with their general education class when they should be.

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](#)

8:00 p.m. Adjourn

Next meeting- September 2025