



# Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

October 13, 2025



Saint Paul Public Schools  
Special Education  
Advisory Council

## SPPS Mission

INSPIRE STUDENTS TO THINK  
CRITICALLY, PURSUE THEIR  
DREAMS AND CHANGE THE WORLD



Co-Chairs

Welcome- we're going to get the meeting started.

Housekeeping- Meeting norms?



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# Introduction to SEAC- Grounding

## 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”.

Source MN Statute 125.A.24

## 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.



Co Chairs

Grounding- Why are we here: SEAC Elevator Speech

The Why: Read the state mandate:

**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.**

How is up to the district. SPPS SEAC was established in 1973. SPPS has a long history of supporting SEAC for families through monthly meetings and removing barriers to attendance by offering a meal, transportation and childcare.

## “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.**

\*For more check out PACER’s SEAC materials.



### Co-Chairs

Input can be given informally and formally, Staff are always listening and making changes in reaction to parent input. Such as SEAC newbie time and or input made formally through SEAC Reports.

5:30-6:00 pm is an opportunity for families to connect with one another and staff.

We'll designate the 10 minutes before each SEAC meeting to “newbies” if you have questions about SEAC come 10 minutes early to ask your questions.

If you're attending as a guest - connect with a member. Members- look for a new face to connect with.



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# Member and Guest Introductions

## Share:

- Your name
- If you're a member or guest
- A little about yourself or your child



## Co-Chairs

- Chairs introduce selves first
- Introduce and welcome new members: Antonio and Sarah
- Introductions around table and online folks.
  - Ask virtual folks to sign in on chat
-

# Agenda

6:25 p.m. Approve Oct. agenda and [Sept. minutes](#)

6:20 p.m. Parent Advisory Handbook, Pablo Matamoros Assistant Director Family Engagement

6:50 p.m. Forum- Opportunity for hearing parent voices and sharing stories from the disability community.

7:10 p.m. SEAC Business-Membership  
Movie [Forget Me Not: Inclusion in the Classroom](#), location, date and time.

7:30 p.m. SpEd Update- Heidi Nistler, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Services

8:00 p.m. Adjourn



Co-Chairs: Review Agenda

Is it okay if Jackie takes pictures tonight? Let us know if you do not want to be in pictures.

Chairs - would you like meeting recorded? If so let's remind folks we'll be recording

Something new tonight- **we will request a motion to approve the agenda.**

Reminder only members can vote.

## Approve: September meeting minutes



### Co-Chairs

6:15 - 6:20 pm. Only members can vote.

There are **currently 12 SEAC members**. Procedural Guidelines state  $\frac{1}{3}$  of membership must be present to vote. To approve minutes - **4 members must be present and vote to approve**.

# Parent Advisory Handbook

Pablo Matamoros, Assistant Director Family Engagement  
and Community Partnerships



# Forum

Open time for...

- hearing parent voice
- sharing stories from the disability community
- giving feedback for future agenda items
- sharing resources



Norms- check with Heidi before meeting

# SEAC Business

Membership

Movie [Forget Me Not: Inclusion in the Classroom](#)



Membership Discussion

Is the movie something SEAC would like to do?  
We would purchase a license for 30 people  
location, date and time.

# Special Education Updates

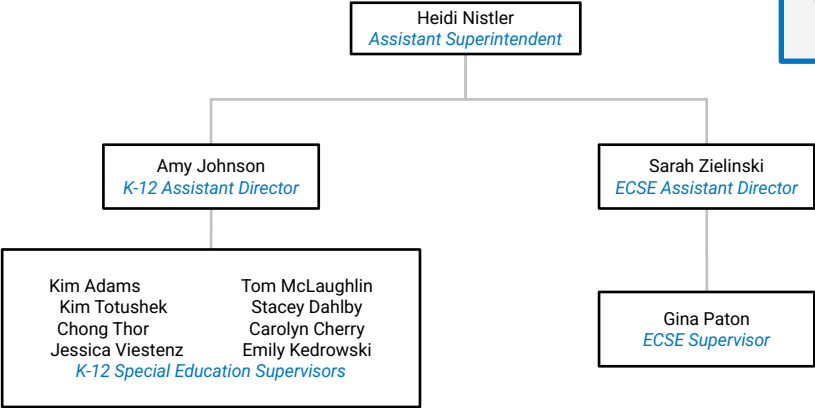
Heidi Nistler, Assistant Superintendent Specialized Services



Heidi

# Office of Specialized Services

**Special Education  
Leadership Team**



[Link to schools](#)



Carolyn

# 2025-26 Priorities

## Mandatory CEIS Plan

- 15% of federal special education funds ~ \$1.2 million
- Check and Connect team expansion
  - 2 additional Cultural Specialists
- Problem Solving team expansion
  - 5.5 licensed staff members (teachers, social worker, occupational therapist)
  - 3 Educational Assistants



# 2025-26 Priorities

- Reducing Suspensions and Dismissals
  - Year 1 of Mandatory CEIS (Coordinating Early Intervening Services)
  - Mandatory 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.
  - SPPS Disproportionality in the following areas:
    - Total disciplinary removals for students who are Black or African American and receive special education services
    - Students who are Black or African American and receiving special education services being suspended for 10+ days



# 2025-26 Priorities

## Problem-Solving Team Expansion

- 5.5 Special Education Licensed Staff (teachers, social worker, occupational Therapist) and 2 EAs
- Purpose: Support general education students and students receiving special education services who have experienced high rates of dismissals/suspensions or who are exhibiting behaviors for which they are at high risk of being dismissed or suspended
  - Conduct observations, interviews, file review, work directly with students, create recommendations, and help with implementation of interventions



# SPPS Referendum Reminder

- To continue providing high-quality education to all of our students, we are asking the community to vote on an operating levy on November 4, 2025
  - Information about the referendum is on the SPPS website
    - <https://www.spps.org/referendum>
    - [Video Learn about the SPPS referendum](#)
    - [4 page Handout](#)
    - Early voting opens on September 19
    - [Voter registration information](#)



**Please join us for a virtual information session about the SPPS 2025 School District Referendum on Monday, October 20, from 6-7 p.m.**

Virtual meetings will be held in English, Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. The meetings will include an informational video and presentation from Superintendent Stacie Stanley, followed by time to ask SPPS leaders questions about the referendum. Please use the links below to join the virtual information **sessions**.

# Special Education Brochure



Carolyn

# Resources

- [Pacer Center's National Bullying Prevention Center](#)
- [Kids Against Bullying](#)
- [Teens Against Bullying](#)





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**Next SEAC meeting: Monday, November 10**



Co-Chairs

Thank you for attending SEAC tonight.

After meeting adjourns ask SEAC Executive when they would like to plan the October agenda?