



Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)

September 15, 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?



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Saint Paul Public Schools
Special Education
Advisory Council

Member and Guest Introductions

Share:

- Your name
- If you're a member or guest
- A little about yourself or your child
- What do you want from SEAC? What don't you want?



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Co-Chairs

- Chairs introduce selves first
- Introductions around table and online folks.
 - Ask virtual folks to sign in on chat
- Share information about Oanh's son Charlie and pass around the card

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.

Agenda

6:25 p.m. Approve June minutes and September agenda

6:30 p.m. SEAC Forum

7:00 p.m. Special Education Update, Heid Nistler, Assistant Superintendent, Specialized Services

7:30 p.m. Nominations and elections for Co-Chair and SEAC Executive

7:40 p.m. Office of Family Engagement Update, Assistant Director Pablo Matamoros

7:50 p.m. Group Photo

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.

We will have a group photo at the end of the night.

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

Reminder only members can vote.

Approve: Meeting minutes June 2025



Co-Chairs

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

There are **currently 20 SEAC members**. Procedural Guidelines state $\frac{1}{3}$ of membership must be present to vote. To approve minutes - **6 members must be present and vote to approve**.

Forum

Open time for...

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



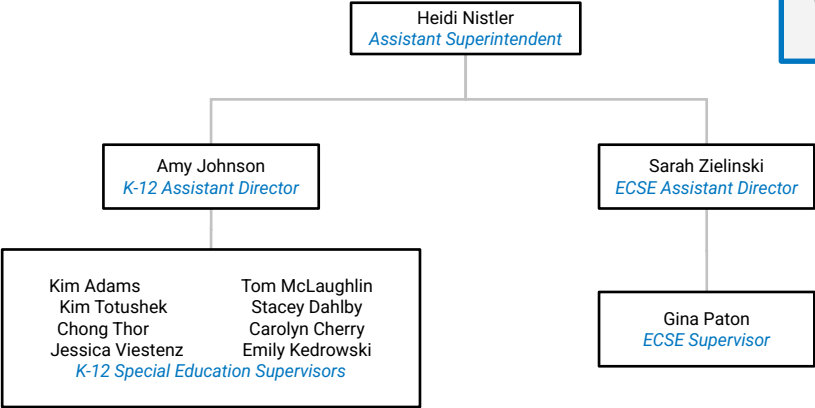
Special Education Updates



Heidi

Office of Specialized Services

**Special Education
Leadership Team**



[Link to schools](#)



Carolyn

2025-26 Priorities

READ Act Implementation - Phase 2

- Teacher Assistants and Educational Assistants (specialized training for paraprofessionals)
- Secondary special education teachers (CAREIALL)
- New teachers who did not have required training last year



2025-26 Priorities

Supports for Setting III programs

- DCD/ASD Classrooms - 2 coaches
- EBD - 1 coach and Educational Assistant



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 Awareness

- 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>
 - Early voting opens on September 19
 - [Voter registration information](#)



Nominations and elections for Co-Chair and SEAC Executive



Open nomination:

Pass out ballots for nominations.

SEAC Executive: Can vote for 3 people

SEAC Co-Chair: Can vote for 1 person

- Members can nominate themselves.
- Members can decline a nomination.
- Motion to closes nominations.
- Second the motion.

Must vote and pass by two thirds.

Voting by ballot:

Pass out paper

- Co-Chair Green paper
- Executive Blue paper

Family Engagement Update

Assistant Director Pablo Matamoros



FB Request:

Lighthouse Keepers Meeting (FB site council) last night. Would someone be able to come on **OCT. 9th 5:00-6:30 from SEAC to present information** and answer questions from families?

If time:

School Year Planning

SEAC Trajectory: What do you want from SEAC? What don't you want?

SEAC communication: Facebook Group, SEAC Chatter

Thought Exchange



Since becoming superintendent in May 2025, I have heard from hundreds of staff members, students, parents/caregivers and community members. You've told me that we need to focus on strong reading skills, quality communication, and creating safe spaces where everyone belongs. What else is important for you to tell me?



Special Education Brochure



Carolyn

Resources

Gillette Children's - Together We Play Adaptive Recreation Expo!

Join us and other families of all abilities from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27** at our St. Paul Campus to learn about adaptive recreation opportunities from a wide variety of vendors and organizations.

Register for the FREE event today! gillette.mn/recexpo

Disability Hub

- [SPPS Back to School Basics](#)
- [Students Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Adaptive Athletics](#)
- [Community Education](#)
- [Saint Paul Public Libraries](#)
- [Saint Paul Parks and Recreation](#)
- [Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative](#)



Group Photo



Co-Chairs



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**Next SEAC meeting:
Monday, October 13**



Co-Chairs

Thank you for attending SEAC tonight.

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