

Albemarle Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
Monthly Meeting - County Office Building, Room 320
Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 6:30 pm

Agenda

1. Call to Order - 6:30pm
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Attendance and Introductions
 - a. SEAC Members
 - Amanda Vogel - Baker Butler Elementary
 - Matthew Fowler - Hollymead Elementary
 - Jessica Allen - Ivy Elementary; Co-Chair
 - Caitlin Foley - Mountain View Elementary
 - Tammy Gouldsmith - Murray Elementary
 - Dee Curry - Scottsville Elementary, Vice Chair
 - Grace Steljes - Stony Point Elementary
 - Jessica Willard - Stone-Robinson Elementary
 - Sam Peacoe - Burly Middle School, Co-Secretary
 - Chris Seaman - Henley Middle School; Co-Chair
 - Libby Moore - Journey Middle School
 - Kate Gariepy - Albemarle High School
 - Nicole Group - Western Albemarle High School, Co-Secretary
 - Teller Stalfort - Ace Academy
 - Tanya Evans - Community Representative
 - Betsy Soulsby - Community Representative
 - b. ACPS Administration and Staff
 - Dr. Daphne Kesier, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
 - Ashley Struzik, Director of Special Education
 - Leslie Glover, Assistant Director of Special Education
 - c. Piedmont Regional Education Program
 - Stephanie Hicks, Parent Resource Center
 - Maureen Strazzullo, Parent Resource Center
4. PEATC Presentation - "From Referral to Eligibility: A Deeper Dive"
(register at <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/peatc/1992379>)
 - a. Kathleen Gibson with PEATC (Parent Education Advocacy Training Center) - VA designated parent center under office of special education programs
 - b. Wanda Beck is the Region 5 specialist; working to open community office hours in the area; 1:1 consultations, trainings, IEP review, SEAC training, offerings online self paced and in person
 - c. Very high level overview of eligibility referral process, internal processes would be division specific (*Load presentation slides to website*)
 - SBIT - school based intervention team
 - MTSS - multitiered systems support
 - d. Very general recap of slides (full slide deck available [here](#)):

Instruction & Monitoring -> Ongoing; Annual Review -> Once per year; 122 calendar days minimum - the sooner you suspect and reach out the better; A referral refers the child to the committee to decide if they suspect there is a disability impacting their access to education; Child Find obligation to identify children with disabilities in public and private schools in the division; Request an evaluation in writing and send it to the Special Education Administrator or designee at the school. (Usually principal or assistant principal) or Early Childhood Special Education Director.

Be very specific in the referral - I suspect XYZ and this is why I suspect that. Early intervention is key. Parents want a full comprehensive evaluation.

ANYONE can make a referral (parent, teacher, staff, neighbor, pediatrician, daycare provider etc); Clock starts when the referral is made to the Special Education admin regardless of who made the referral.; Age 2 - 22 as long as they have not graduated with a diploma yet. Homeschool, private school, public school, daycare, etc. Referral goes to the public school in the division the child does/would attend.

After a referral is made > Agree to start the eligibility evaluation process OR send the school based team to review records and respond OR deny the request WITHIN THREE BUSINESS DAYS (administrator decision). Almost always the School Based Team.

Medical diagnosis is not required to proceed with an evaluation; A medical diagnosis does not automatically qualify a child.

School Based Team meeting - talk about all of your concerns, do NOT sugar coat it.

In ACPS SBIT can also be School Based Intervention Team MTSS - Multi Tiered Systems of Support meetings, not necessarily or not just School Based Team meetings for eligibility.

Response to intervention cannot unnecessarily delay the process or pause it. If we wait for data from response to intervention we are delaying the process. No hard and fast time limit on what unnecessary is. How are we measuring success, and how long are we agreeing on - cannot get stuck on an endless loop of trying interventions.

Timeline - 3 business days from the date referral is received to make a decision; School based team has 10 days to make a decision; 65 business days to get the evaluation; Business days do include summer, other breaks, snow days, etc. just not weekends or federal holidays.

The Eligibility Process - Team - Parents, Student if appropriate, Testing expert, gen ed teacher, spe ed teacher, sp ed administrator, school staff.

Assessments - Health, vision, hearing, social and emotional, general intelligence, academic performance, communication, medical, motor abilities, adaptive behavior. Hearing and Vision are always performed in the process.

No single measure or assessment can be used as the sole criteria and determining factor for eligibility. Twice exceptional students are some of the most under-identified students statistically; Schools are required to provide

you with an opportunity to review the evaluation reports 2 business days before the eligibility meeting (but not necessarily provide you with a copy - you might be invited to come to the school to read it). They have to provide copies at the meeting or within 10 days following the meeting.

Ask for results > Review reports > Write down any questions you may have; You can say what does this mean, what is that acronym, what is this jargon? In VA there are 14 eligibility categories. You can age out of Developmental Delay as a qualifier and for receiving services (2-6 years old is the only eligibility.)

If child is not found eligible - "You can say I do not agree and escalate it; You can go to due process;

If you do not agree with the reports, you can request an independent educational evaluation (IEE) (part of your procedural safe guards) - You can request an IEE in every area; Request will go to director in division; You can tell them why but don't have to; They can approve it or go to due process and defend their evaluation; If approved they can't put unreasonable cost containment on it, but it has to be reasonable within your area. Should give you a list of people who have worked with them before but you can choose someone else as long as they meet the criteria.

If your child is non speaking and they use an evaluation tool that is not validated as non verbal you can and should request another tool or an IEE if they do not agree.

Eligibility will be documented and forwarded to the team; Found eligible > Develop IEP - first development meeting within 30 days

Triennials and Reevaluations - Due every three years. If no longer eligible, that information can inform a 504; Reevaluations can be data collection (current test scores, student teacher parent input, current work samples, etc) to determine eligibility and reviewing holistically, not necessarily assessments; You can request assessments with cause any time.

Not eligible reasons - Do not suspect disability; Could be because there is no evidence, could be because not all of the information was discussed or it was sugar coated - really important to discuss all concerns thoroughly.

- Dyslexia - cannot test for that; do cumulative testing to find deficits
- Revisit Family after denial follow-up
- Twice Exceptional considerations: understood.org; "Endrew F talking points"; sengifted.org
- Functional skills DO impact education and are absolutely worth the conversation
- Dyslexia SLD gap
- Revisit ineligible families after denial after set amount of time
- Youth Empowerment Transition Council

5. Update from SEAC Leadership Team

- Q2 formative assessments data
- Reading & math went up (11, over 5) science was down
- News: collective bargaining was approved; ADA on Thursday

- HR study put new pay scale, school providers (school phys), 15% 26-27 school year
 - 4 increase pay scale for TAs
 - State level, bill about restorative practices
 - Bill for schools to ask for
 - Seclusion and restraint HP1229
 - Family life curriculum for school board (March meeting) for HS Cbase programs
 - April meeting - DARs
6. Update from SEAC representatives on other ACPS committees
- Amanda - Talent Committee working from feedback from 2 EE
 - Family Council - last month #1 evaluation of extracurricular activities (organize) #2 technology in classroom, AI
7. Update from ACPS Special Education Leadership - slide deck will be posted on website
8. New Business
- Capital improvement projects by Family Council, link to website
 - Ashley says we do have lots of people on the committees for new building
 - Family Council sending calls to action for Capital Improvement Projects - resolution on behalf of SEAC to endorse the improvements based on ADA noncompliance concerns and improvements needed for buildings to be accessible.
 - Ralph Bradley coming in March to provide updates on MOUs and SROs.
 - Bill codifying restraint and seclusion will read more.
9. Public comment (in person and by email at spedhelp@k12albemarle.org)
- Stephanie - life after High School conference
10. Adjourned at 8:26pm