Ouachita Parish School System

2025-2026 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report

May 12, 2026

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Purpose of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
R.S. 17:1944 Requires local public-school systems to create a Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The SEAC shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

SEAC Members and Roles

Members	*Role*
Ellie Hilton	Parent
Jacey Meloy	Parent
Stacey Hutto	Parent
Carley Morgan	Parent
Cari Duprey	Parent
Melinda Landry	Parent
Misty McMullen	Parent
Janet Bentley	Teacher
Christina Hemphill	Paraprofessional
Ella Ecker	High School Student with a Disability
Hope Miller (Families Helping Families)	Entity that Serves Students with Disabilities
Angela Westerburg	Director of Student Support Services
Jennifer L. Brinson	Program Manager - (SEAC) Chairperson

2025-2026 Meetings (Agendas/Minutes)

(SEAC) Meeting Date/Time	*Location*	*Link for Meetings (Agendas/Minutes)*
Thursday, December 18, 2025 12:00 - 1:00	800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe, LA	2025-2026 SEAC Agenda 12/18/2025 SEAC Meeting Minutes 12/18/2025
Thursday, February 26, 2026 12:00 - 1:00	800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe, LA	2025-2026 SEAC Agenda 2/26/2026 SEAC Meeting Minutes 2/26/2026
Thursday, May 7, 2026 12:00 - 1:00	800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe, LA	2025-2026 SEAC Agenda 5/7/2026 SEAC Meeting Minutes 5/7/2026

The Ouachita Parish School System Special Education Advisory Council meeting dates are posted on the Ouachita Parish School System website under Special Education. A quorum was obtained at every Ouachita Parish School System SEAC meeting held during the 2025-2026 school year.

Executive Summary

Overview of Special Education in Ouachita Parish (LEA):

- Overview of students with disabilities' academic performance data and subgroup performance score for the 2024-2025 school year is 62.9 with a grade of "C".

- Overview of special education financial data: The initial budget for the year was $4,714,642. A significant portion of the budget is allocated to salaries, benefits, and contracted services. Additional expenditures include subscription fees for online curriculum platforms and travel costs for teachers, Pupil Appraisal staff, related service providers, and the Supervisors/Program Managers to attend professional development opportunities. A substantial amount is also designated for materials and supplies necessary to implement student IEPs and support related services.

- **Policy Review:** In alignment with the Ouachita Parish School System's mandates, the district successfully finalized the review and revision of the *Guidelines for Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Exceptional Students*. This update ensured the seamless integration of standardized 'approved physical restraint' definitions and established rigorous, mandatory reporting timelines to enhance student safety and institutional accountability.

  Following formal approval by the **Policy Review Committee**, the updated *Guidelines for the Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint with Exceptional Students* were made official. To ensure district-wide transparency and ease of access, the finalized document has been published to the **Special Education Services Department** section of the **Ouachita Parish School System** website.. Guidelines for Use of Seclusion and Physical Restraint 25-26.docx

Compliance:

- Comprehensive desk monitoring conducted during the 2024–2025 academic cycle identified specific areas of concern within the **Instructional Goals** section of the Individualized Education Program (IEP). The findings highlighted deficiencies in the development of **Present Levels of Academic Achievement and Functional Performance (PLAAFP)** and subsequent **Goal Development**.

    - **Remediation & Strategic Action Plan**
      To address these findings and ensure adherence to state and federal mandates, the Special Education Self-Assessment Team has executed the following corrective measures:

        - **Policy & Procedural Revision:** Established rigorous new internal protocols to standardize the drafting of PLAAFP statements and goal setting.
        - **Targeted Professional Development:** Launched a comprehensive training curriculum designed to bridge the gap between evaluative data and instructional objectives.

- **Systemic Action Plan:** Implemented a district-wide roadmap to facilitate the immediate correction of identified non-compliance.

- **Ongoing Quality Assurance**
  The district is currently in the active phase of staff implementation. To ensure sustained compliance and instructional integrity, these efforts are being reinforced by:

  - **Mandatory Instructional Workshops:** Ongoing training sessions for all relevant personnel.
  - **Internal Audit Cycles:** Regular, data-driven self-audits to monitor the efficacy of the new procedures and ensure quality control across all student records.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Council:

- The council has explored various strategies to enhance parental involvement and strengthen community support. One initiative includes creating and distributing a Preschool Screening Clinic brochure and flyer to share with our community. The team successfully distributed brochures and flyers to more than 15 community facilities.

Areas of Improvement, Next Steps, and Timeline of Upcoming Activities:

Areas of Improvement:

- Targeted transition support for students and families moving from elementary to middle school and middle to high school.
- Continued promotion and visibility of events and activities that showcase students with special needs and disabilities.
- Deepened collaboration between schools and families through the support of our Families Helping Families (FHF) Liaison.

Next Steps, and Timeline of Upcoming Activities:

Next Steps:

- Proposed Initiatives: Model a framework for 'School Preview Days' that targets key transition points, with the intent of assessing its impact on student and family integration prior to full adoption.
- Professional Development Training:
  - **Behavioral Support & Triggers:**
    - Increased training for teachers on identifying and managing student-specific triggers.
    - Clearer protocols on the appropriate and timely use of sensory rooms.
  - **Inclusive Practices:**
    - Requirement for **all staff** (General Education and Special Education) to receive training on supporting diverse learners.
    - Focus areas: Implementing accommodations and responding to behavioral needs with evidence-based strategies.

Timeline of Upcoming Activities:

Strategic Alignment

- September 2026 | Strategic Alignment of "School Preview Days": Convene with the Attuned Committee to define the vision for the "School Preview Days" initiative. This initial stage will focus on establishing a strategic framework and identifying the core objectives required to support students and families during transitional years (Elementary to Middle; Middle to High).
- Fall 2026 | Exploratory Design: Engage in a collaborative design phase to model potential event structures. Focus will be placed on drafting logistics, identifying resource requirements, and developing preliminary outreach strategies to determine the viability of a district-wide program.
- Spring 2027 | Phased Feasibility: Initiate a controlled pilot phase to stress-test the "Preview Day" model. This period will be used to gather stakeholder feedback and data, allowing the committee to refine the approach before determining a timeline for full-scale integration by the close of the 2027-2028 academic year.

Professional Development

- Summer 2026 – Spring 2027 | Execution: Complete initial Professional Development for **Behavioral Support & Triggers and Inclusive Practices.**

- **How to Join:**

  - Applications are available via the **Special Education Advisory Council** section of the district website at www.opsb.net or direct link: Special Education Advisory Council - Ouachita Parish School System
    - **Timeline:** Official announcements regarding the 2026–2027 application window will be posted on the Special Education webpage.
    - **Submission:** All applications must be submitted through the online portal.
    - **Inquiries:** Please direct questions to Jennifer Brinson, SEAC Chairperson, at **jenniferbrinson@opsb.net**.
  - In alignment with our commitment to academic excellence, we cultivate a culture of shared responsibility where parents, educators, and community stakeholders work together to bridge the gap between the classroom and the community.