

Ascension Public Schools

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



May 2026

What is the purpose of [LEA]’s Special Education Advisory Council?

R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council 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.

Members and Roles

Member	Role
Marvin Reed	Parent
Shelton Williams	Parent
Lorene Phillips	Parent
Jeremy Tarver	Parent
Sandy Hanna	Parent
Sanora Cole	Parent
Lynette White-Pierce	Parent
Ashleigh Seneca	Parent
Kimberly Ammons	Principal
Marlene Dominique	Executive Director of The ARC-Donaldsonville
Jodi Rollins (Co-Chair)	Parent
Adrina Million (Co-Chair until 1/2026)	APS Director of Special Education
Jennifer Vicknair (Co-Chair, started 2/2026)	

2025-2026 Meetings, Agendas, Minutes

August 27, 2025 – 12 pm	LeBlanc Special Services	Agenda Minutes
October 30, 2025 - 5 pm	LeBlanc Special Services	Agenda Minutes
December 18, 2025 - 5 pm	LeBlanc Special Services	Agenda Minutes
February 25, 2026 - 12 pm	LeBlanc Special Services	Agenda Minutes
April 30, 2026 - 5 pm	Instructional Technology Center	Agenda

Quorum was achieved at all of the 2025-2026 Special Education Advisory Council Meetings. Meeting notices were widely advertised through the district website, social media platforms, phone calls, email reminders, and monthly newsletters. To encourage greater participation, meetings were scheduled during both evening and lunchtime hours, and a virtual option was made available to ensure accessibility for all parents.

Executive Summary

The Ascension Public School Board Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) continued to focus on strengthening communication, increasing parent engagement, improving collaboration, and supporting positive outcomes for students with disabilities throughout the 2025–2026 school year. Through regular meetings, collaboration with district leadership, and ongoing advocacy efforts, the council worked to identify areas of need, provide recommendations, and support continuous improvement within special education services across the district.

Students with Disabilities Performance Data Overview (2025)

Ascension Parish – Students with Disabilities Subgroup

- 2025 Subgroup Letter Grade: C
- 2025 Subgroup School Performance Score (SPS/DPS): 74

Assessment and Academic Performance Indicators

- 2025 K-8 & High School Assessment Index (including ELPT progress points): 52.9
- 2025 K-8 Assessment Index (including ELPT progress points): 53.5
- 2025 High School Assessment Index (including ELPT progress points): 45.6

Student Growth Indicators

- 2025 K-8 & High School Progress Index: 89.1
- 2025 K-8 Progress Index: 89.8
- 2025 High School Progress Index: 85.9

College and Career Readiness Indicators

- 2025 Dropout Credit Accumulation Index: 132
- 2025 K-8 Interests & Opportunities Index: >145
- 2025 High School Interests & Opportunities Index: >145
- 2025 ACT Index: 42.8

Graduation and Diploma Strength Indicators

- Strength of Diploma Index (2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Cohort): 102
- Cohort Graduation Rate Index (Points Earned for Cohort Graduation Rate) (2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Cohort): 105.5
- Cohort Graduation Actual Rate (2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Cohort): 91.1%

Areas of Strength

- Strong student growth performance across K-8 and high school settings.
- High participation and performance in Interests & Opportunities measures.
- Strong cohort graduation rate and diploma strength indicators.
- Positive dropout credit accumulation outcomes.

Areas for Continued Improvement

- Improve overall assessment performance scores, particularly within high school assessment measures.
- Continue targeted academic interventions to increase subgroup letter grade and overall SPS/DPS performance.
- Strengthen supports for students with disabilities in tested content areas while maintaining strong growth outcomes.

LEAP Connect Test Results (2025)

- Grade 3 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 67 students assessed in ELA with 85.7% achieving proficiency.
 - 67 students assessed in Math with 85.7% achieving proficiency.
 - Science assessment was not applicable.
 - 67 students assessed overall with 85.7% proficiency.
- Grade 4 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 35 students assessed in ELA with 100% proficiency.
 - 60 students assessed in Math with 100% proficiency.
 - 25 students assessed in Science with 100% proficiency.
 - 40 students assessed overall with 100% proficiency.
- Grade 5 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 63 students assessed in ELA with 96.4% proficiency.
 - 56 students assessed in Math with 96.4% proficiency.
 - Science assessment was not applicable.
 - 59 students assessed overall with 96.4% proficiency.
- Grade 6 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 39 students assessed in ELA with 96.6% proficiency.

- 50 students assessed in Math with 96.6% proficiency.
- Science assessment was not applicable.
- 45 students assessed overall with 96.6% proficiency.
- Grade 7 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 68 students assessed in ELA with 97.4% proficiency.
 - 81 students assessed in Math with 97.4% proficiency.
 - Science assessment was not applicable.
 - 74 students assessed overall with 97.4% proficiency.
- Grade 8 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 70 students assessed in ELA with 100% proficiency.
 - 90 students assessed in Math with 100% proficiency.
 - 80 students assessed in Science with 100% proficiency.
 - 80 students assessed overall with 100% proficiency.
- Grade 11 LEAP Connect results showed:
 - 99 students assessed in ELA with 100% proficiency.
 - 94 students assessed in Math with 100% proficiency.
 - 89 students assessed in Science with 100% proficiency.
 - 94 students assessed overall with 100% proficiency.
- Overall LEAP Connect performance for Ascension Parish:
 - 160 students assessed in ELA with 96.6% proficiency.
 - 160 students assessed in Math with 96.6% proficiency.
 - 58 students assessed in Science with 100% proficiency.
 - 406 total assessments administered with an overall proficiency rate of 97.0%.

Overview of Special Education in the LEA

Ascension Public Schools remains committed to providing a free and appropriate public education to students with disabilities through a continuum of services and supports designed to meet individual student needs. Throughout the year, the district focused on strengthening behavioral supports, improving inclusion opportunities, increasing parent access to information and resources, and expanding collaboration between schools, families, and community agencies. Significant attention was given to early intervention efforts, transition planning, mental health supports, and improving communication regarding special education processes and procedures.

The district also continued efforts to support students with complex behavioral and communication needs through increased collaboration, staff training discussions, and ongoing review of policies and procedures related to special education services, evaluations, restraint and seclusion practices, and alternate assessment guidance.

Overview of Students with Disabilities Academic Performance and Subgroup Performance

Throughout the school year, the district remained focused on improving academic outcomes and support systems for students with disabilities. Discussions during SEAC meetings emphasized the importance of proactive interventions, increased inclusion opportunities, Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs), Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), transition supports, and additional staff training to improve student success across school settings. The council also discussed the importance of strengthening supports for younger students transitioning into school programs and ensuring students receive appropriate behavioral, communication, and academic interventions to support educational progress.

Overview of Special Education Financial Data

The district continued to utilize special education funding to support instructional services, related services, behavioral supports, mental health initiatives, parent engagement activities, and collaboration with community agencies. During the 2025–2026 school year, the district also pursued additional grant funding opportunities to strengthen mental health and suicide prevention supports for students and families.

Compliance Violations

The district remained committed to maintaining compliance with state and federal special education requirements. Throughout the year, SEAC discussions included ongoing policy review efforts, collaboration with district leadership and legal counsel, and continued focus on ensuring district practices align with Louisiana Department of Education guidance and federal special education regulations. Recommendations included reviewing district policies for clarity, improving communication regarding parent rights, and strengthening procedural supports for students and families.

Total Number of Seclusion Rooms in the School System- 1 Seclusion room

The district reviewed and discussed policies and procedures related to seclusion and restraint practices throughout the school year.

Highlights and Accomplishments of the Council

The SEAC accomplished several meaningful initiatives during the 2025–2026 school year, including:

- Recommending the development of district special education guidance to accompany the Louisiana Department of Education Rights and Responsibilities Booklet to provide clearer information for families.

- Supporting the formation of a SEAC policy committee to review district special education policies and alignment with state and federal law.
- Increasing internal communication and outreach efforts through the launch of the APSB District Principal and LEAD teacher monthly Special Education Newsletter.
- Increasing communication and outreach efforts through the launch of the APSB Special Education Parent Newsletter and the addition of a dedicated “SEAC Corner.”
- Expanding collaboration opportunities with district leadership, including annual meetings with the Superintendent and ongoing communication with the Director of Special Education.
- Supporting planning efforts for the 2026 Special Education Resource Fair with participation from more than 50 agencies and organizations.
- Promoting parent advocacy and access to resources through free Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) memberships.
- Increasing awareness and discussion regarding mental health, suicide prevention, behavioral supports, and transition services for students with disabilities.
- Encouraging stronger collaboration between schools, families, community agencies, and district departments to improve outcomes for students with disabilities.
- Continuing discussions regarding inclusion supports, behavior team expansion, staff training, and proactive interventions for students with significant behavioral and communication needs.

Overall, the 2025–2026 school year reflected the district’s continued commitment to collaboration, transparency, parent engagement, and improving educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

Monthly Highlights and Accomplishments

August 2025

During the SEAC meeting on August 27, 2025, the advisory committee reviewed and approved the minutes from June 25, 2025, followed by the introduction of new members. This meeting focused on improving communication, parent support, and special education policy review within the district. A major accomplishment was the council’s approval to recommend creating district special education guidance to accompany the Louisiana Department of Education Rights and Responsibilities Booklet in order to provide families with clearer, more accessible information. The council also recommended that APSB special education attorneys review district policies to ensure alignment with state and federal laws, while identifying areas needing clarification or updates. Additional highlights included discussions on increasing parent engagement opportunities, exploring sensory-friendly school preparation options for students, and launching the APSB Special Education Parent Newsletter with a dedicated “SEAC Corner” to share resources, events, and helpful information with families.

October 2025

This meeting began with the review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting. The SEAC council approved the formation of a policy committee to review special education policies and support alignment with state and federal law. Superintendent Walker agreed to meet annually with SEAC members and a SEAC newsletter representative was decided. Members also discussed improving communication through GroupMe, received OSEP updates, shared district advocacy information, and promoted student participation in the Bayou Classic Unified Flag Football activities. The meeting concluded with reminders about upcoming SEAC events and a unanimous motion to adjourn.

December 2025

This meeting began with the review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting. The SEAC meeting focused on expanding mental health awareness, improving communication, and increasing parent support in special education. Members received a presentation from Rain Will Bring Flowers on suicide prevention, teen mental wellness, and community resources. The council discussed improving SEAC communication platforms, announced free COPAA memberships to help families better understand special education rights, and began planning a future meeting with Superintendent Walker. Additional updates included planning for the 2026 Resource Fair, newsletter participation, policy updates on seclusion and restraint, alternate assessment guidance, and discussions about Child Specific Paras (CSPs), parent rights, and the importance of collaboration and training in supporting students with special needs.

February 2026

The meeting began with a review and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The meeting focused on strengthening collaboration, improving behavioral supports for students, increasing parent engagement, and continuing to improve special education services across the district. A major highlight was the introduction of the new Director of Special Education, Dr. Jennifer Vicknair, who shared a vision centered on transparency, collaboration, trust-building, and ensuring all students thrive. The meeting also included updates on the district's Child Search and early intervention efforts, with discussions focused on behavioral supports, Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs), and additional resources for younger students transitioning into school settings. SEAC members shared recommendations related to increasing staff training, improving inclusion supports, and exploring additional classroom and resource options for students with disabilities. Parent engagement remained a major focus throughout the meeting. The district's monthly special education parent newsletter and ongoing outreach efforts by parent facilitators were highlighted as important tools for

connecting families with resources and information. They also provided an update on the 2026 Special Education Resource Fair, which will include more than 50 participating agencies and transition-related programs for families. Additional updates included efforts to secure grant funding for student mental health and suicide prevention initiatives. Overall, the meeting reflected the district's continued commitment to collaboration, communication, and improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

April 2026

The meeting began with a review and approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. This meeting focused on strengthening behavioral supports, improving communication with families, and increasing collaboration between schools and outside agencies. Much of the discussion centered on supporting kindergarten students transitioning from ABA therapy programs into school settings, with SEAC members and district staff discussing proactive interventions, Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), and the importance of early collaboration and review procedures to better support students with behavioral needs. District leadership also highlighted ongoing efforts to expand behavior team support and staff training.

The council also discussed improving parent access to important special education information through newsletters, district resources, and proposed annual deadline calendars for services and accommodations. Additional highlights included updates on the district receiving a mental health and suicide prevention grant, continued collaboration with outside agencies, and district updates regarding changes to Louisiana Bulletin 1508 and special education evaluation procedures. Overall, the meeting reflected the district's continued commitment to proactive student supports, parent engagement, collaboration, and improving special education services across the district.

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

During the 2025–2026 school year, the Special Education Advisory Council identified several areas for continued growth and improvement within the district's special education programs and services. Key areas of focus included strengthening communication with families, increasing consistency in behavioral supports and inclusion practices across schools, improving access to parent resources and training opportunities, and continuing to review district policies and procedures to ensure alignment with state and federal special education requirements.

The council also identified the need for continued staff training related to behavior supports, Functional Behavior Assessments (FBAs), Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), autism supports, inclusion practices, and transition services for students with disabilities. Additional discussion focused on improving supports for students transitioning from early intervention and ABA

therapy settings into kindergarten programs, while increasing collaboration between schools, families, and outside agencies to ensure proactive planning and student success.

Next Steps

The district and SEAC plan to continue the following initiatives during the upcoming school year:

- Continue reviewing and updating district special education policies and procedures through the SEAC policy committee.
- Develop and distribute district special education guidance documents to accompany the Louisiana Department of Education Rights and Responsibilities Booklet.
- Expand parent engagement opportunities through continued newsletters, trainings, virtual participation options, and family resource events.
- Continue strengthening communication between families, schools, SEAC members, and district leadership.
- Increase staff support and professional development related to behavior interventions, inclusion, mental health, communication supports, and transition planning.
- Continue collaboration with community agencies and outside organizations to increase resources available to students and families.
- Implement and support initiatives funded through mental health and suicide prevention grants.
- Continue planning and hosting the annual Special Education Resource Fair to connect families with district and community supports.
- Review implementation procedures and training related to seclusion, restraint, and behavior support practices.

Timeline of Upcoming Activities

- Summer 2026: Continued planning for staff professional development, policy review, and family engagement initiatives. Review of SEAC applications and selection of the 2026-27 committee members.
- Fall 2026: Resume SEAC meetings, continue newsletter distribution, and begin implementation of updated guidance and parent support resources.
- Fall/Winter 2026: Ongoing collaboration meetings with district leadership, policy committee reviews, and parent engagement activities.
- Spring 2027: Host the Annual Special Education Resource Fair and continue evaluation of district improvement efforts and family feedback initiatives.

These efforts reflect the district's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, collaboration, transparency, and providing high-quality supports and services for students with disabilities and their families.

1. Explain how parent engagement is encouraged throughout the school system and what activities sought to promote parent engagement

Parent engagement is actively encouraged throughout the school system through a variety of inclusive and supportive initiatives designed to foster meaningful family involvement and strengthen partnerships between schools and families. The 3rd Annual Special Education Resource Fair continues to serve as a cornerstone event, providing families with access to valuable resources, service providers, and community partnerships that support students with exceptionalities. This year's event was a continued joint effort with SEAC, further reinforcing collaboration between the district and families of students with special needs.

The district also employs two Parent Facilitators who serve as liaisons between schools and families of students receiving special education services. As part of their ongoing work to support and engage families, the facilitators attend SEAC meetings, assist with the planning and coordination of the annual Special Education Resource Fair, and support parents as they advocate for their children's educational needs. They also help connect families with community agencies, services, and support resources while sharing important district information through the Special Education Parent Newsletter. Their ongoing efforts play an important role in strengthening communication, increasing family engagement, and ensuring parents feel supported throughout their child's educational journey.

To accommodate the diverse schedules and needs of families, parents are encouraged to participate in meetings both in person and virtually. Additional opportunities for engagement include school-sponsored activities, Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, and informational presentations from community organizations and service providers.

Additionally, the implementation of this year's Special Education Parent Newsletter has strengthened communication with families by providing direct access to important district information, including relevant special education topics, district policies, upcoming events, parent trainings, and celebrations of school and student success stories across the district. Together, these efforts reflect the district's ongoing commitment to building strong collaborative relationships with families in support of students with special needs.

How to Join

Current members who have not yet completed two years of service have the option to serve an additional year. Applications for new council members have been distributed at the Special Education Resource Fair and Spring SEAC meetings, linked to our monthly Sped Newsletter, and posted on the district website. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance or non-selection by Dr. Jennifer Vicknair via email.

[Special Education Advisory Council - Ascension Parish School Board](#)