

**Claiborne Parish School Board  
2025-2026 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report**



**May 20, 2026**

**Report submitted by  
Mary Prior, Supervisor of Special Education**

**Claiborne Parish School Board  
Special Education Advisory Council  
End of the Year Report  
May 19, 2026**

The Claiborne Parish Special Education Advisory Council (CPSEAC) is made up of nine members that include parents of students with disabilities, school personnel, and community stakeholders. The current membership includes Mary Prior, Chelsea Cutlip, Marilyn Goodwin, Amanda Crane Manuel, Patricia Thomas, Yolanda Jewitt, Crystal Ford, Yawnashika Smith, and Mindy Reed.

The first meeting of the 2025-2026 CPSEAC was held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at the Cottage in Homer. Members were asked to bring a calendar for planning purposes. The agenda for this meeting included an overview of the current Special Education budget, a review of the Claiborne Parish School Board's Seclusion and Restraint Policies and Procedures, and the planning of a parent informational activity. The Council also discussed other concerns and questions from members and scheduled future meetings for the year.

The second meeting of the CPSEAC was held on April 7, 2026. The agenda included introductions and a discussion of several significant topics. The Council reviewed proposed competitive funding opportunities for the 2026-2027 school year, including IDEA-B and Pre-school funding. Parent surveys were discussed as a means of gathering feedback from families of students with disabilities. The Council also received an update on Seclusion and Restraint policies and procedures, as well as de-escalation training being implemented across the district. Suggested revisions to the Parent Handbook were reviewed, and the Council recognized April as Autism Awareness Month and noted that May would be Better Speech and Hearing Month. Members were given the opportunity to share questions, concerns, and suggestions, and the next meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2026.

The third and final meeting of the 2025-2026 school year was held on May 19, 2026. The Council welcomed members and reviewed/approved the minutes from the previous meeting. Highlights of this meeting included the rollout of a Facebook page to increase community awareness and communication with families of students with disabilities. A parent survey update was provided, and members discussed Third Grade Promotion Guidance and Dyslexia Screening protocols. The Council also reviewed the application process for the 2026-2027 SEAC Committee and recognized May as both Better Speech and Hearing Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. Time was allotted for questions, concerns, and suggestions from members.

Throughout the 2025-2026 year, the Council continued its focus on increasing parent involvement and community awareness of programs and resources available for students with disabilities. Particular attention was given to policy transparency, family communication tools, and planning for continued growth in membership and community engagement in the coming school year.

Mary Prior, Chairperson  
Supervisor of Special Education  
Claiborne Parish School Board

**Claiborne Parish School Board  
Special Services  
500 North Third  
Homer, LA 71040  
(318) 927-2496**

Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Meeting  
Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 5:00 pm  
The Cottage of Homer High School

**Agenda**

Overview of the Current Special Education Budget

Claiborne Parish School Board's Seclusion and Restraint Policies and Procedures

Planning of a Parent Informational Activity

Other Concerns/Questions/Suggestions

Schedule of Future Meetings

**Committee Members**

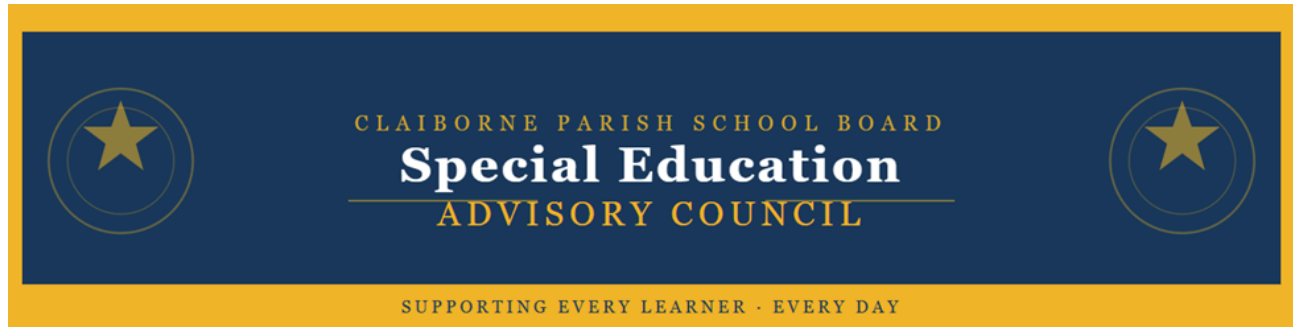
Mary Prior  
Chelsea Cutlip  
Marilyn Goodwin  
Amanda Crane Manuel  
Patricia Thomas  
Yolanda Jewitt  
Crystal Ford  
Yawnashika Smith  
Mindy Reen

**Claiborne Parish School Board  
Special Education Advisory Council  
April 7, 2026  
Meeting Agenda**

- Introductions
- Proposed Competitive Funding Opportunities for 2026-27 - IDEAB and Pre-School
- Parent Surveys
- Update on Seclusion and Restraint policies and procedures and De-escalation Training
- Parent Handbook suggested revisions
- April is Autism Awareness Month
- May is Better Speech and Hearing Month
- Questions/Concerns/Suggestions
- Next Meeting - Tuesday, May 19, 2026

**Committee Members**

Mary Prior  
Chelsea Cutlip  
Marilyn Goodwin  
Amanda Crane Manuel  
Patricia Thomas  
Yolanda Jewitt  
Crystal Ford  
Yawnashika Smith  
Mindy Reed



**500 North Third Street ~ Homer, LA 71040**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**May 19, 2026**

**Committee Members**

Mary Prior  
Chelsea Cutlip  
Marilyn Goodwin  
Amanda Crane Manuel  
Patricia Thomas  
Yolanda Jewitt  
Crystal Ford  
Yawnashika Smith  
Mindy Reed

- Welcome/Call to Order
- Review and Approve Minutes
- Facebook Page Rollout
- Parent Survey Update
- Third Grade Promotion Guidance/Dyslexia Screening
- 2026-2027 SEAC Committee Application Update
- May is Better Speech and Hearing Month
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month
- Questions/Concerns/Suggestions