



SECAC
Advocate. Elevate. Advise.

Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee

Families • Schools • Community • Collaboration

A VOICE FOR SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT

What is SECAC? SECAC is a local advisory committee that provides meaningful input to the local school system about the needs of students with disabilities. The committee serves in an advisory role to the local special education office and operates according to its bylaws.

ADVOCATE

Brings diverse stakeholder feedback regarding students with disabilities

ELEVATE

Highlights parent and community voice

ADVISE

Identify priorities and offer recommendations on systemic issues.

What does SECAC do?

- Reviews special education data, staffing plans, compliance indicators, and local performance.
- Informs school board on unmet needs and helps identify priorities and goals.
- Builds a two-way exchange of information by seeking input from families and community members and sharing SECAC information, priorities, and recommendations back with the community.
- Participates in local implementation teams and committees when appropriate.
- Provides an annual report or other formal input to the County Board of Education.
- Works collaboratively with the Special Education Department and other stakeholders.

SECAC focuses on systems—not individual cases.

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF SECAC

Who can participate?

- Family members of students with disabilities
- Representatives of multiple disability areas
- General education and special education representatives
- Community members and community agencies serving students with disabilities
- Representatives from disability organizations and groups

Expectations of Membership

- Regular meeting attendance and active participation
- Constituency representation and knowledge of special education
- Information sharing and mentoring of new members
- Participation in SECAC work and subcommittees
- A focus on systems change and collaborative problem-solving

What SECAC is NOT

- Not a place to advocate an individual case
- Not a venue for personal IEP advice
- Not a legislative group and does not create legislation
- Not a support group or School Sponsored Organization or Booster
- Not a place to promote services for profit

How SECAC works

- Collaborative agenda setting with the Special Education Director
- Review of mission, vision, purpose, procedures, and ground rules
- Broad discussion of systemic issues without naming individual schools or personnel
- Respectful disagreement, common ground, and shared problem-solving
- Regular communication and information sharing between SECAC leadership, families, community, and the school system

SUBCOMMITTEES For 2026-2027 School Year

Professional Learning & Instructional Practices Subcommittee

This subcommittee will focus on identifying and supporting opportunities for ongoing professional learning related to effective curriculum implementation, specially designed instruction, and evidence-based instructional practices. The subcommittee will gather input and review information to help identify areas of need and make recommendations that support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral success of students with disabilities.

Belonging & Inclusive Practices Subcommittee

This subcommittee will focus on strengthening a culture of belonging for all students, including students with disabilities. The group will consider family and community perspectives, review relevant information and practices, and identify opportunities to promote high expectations, meaningful participation, and consideration of the full range of student needs.

SECAC Events & Recognition Subcommittee

This subcommittee will support SECAC-sponsored events and recognition activities, including the annual Resource and Transition Fair and Annual Awards Ceremony. The group will assist with planning, coordination, communication, and recognition efforts that support SECAC's mission and provide opportunities to connect families with information, resources, and celebrate the contributions of students, staff, and others who support students with disabilities.