



YOUR

MATTERS

VOICE

Get to Know Your Local SEAC

HELP SHAPE SPECIAL EDUCATION IN YOUR SCHOOL DIVISION

Virginia's Special Education Regulations require every school division to have a local **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)** that advises the local school board on educating students with disabilities.

WHAT DOES THE SEAC DO?

The SEAC meets at least quarterly to look at special education from a **division-wide perspective**. A local SEAC:

- Identifies needs of students with disabilities
- Helps develop priorities and strategies for meeting those needs
- Reviews special education policies and procedures before the school board acts on them
- Reviews the division's Annual Plan for special education
- Provides reports and recommendations to the school board
- May provide input on the special education budget and help the community understand the division's plans

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT TO VIRGINIA FAMILIES?

The SEAC is one of the most direct ways families can help **influence special education policy, priorities, and practices across their school division**. Your experience and perspective can help identify problems, improve services, and bring about system changes that benefit students with disabilities throughout your community.

WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Your experience can reveal a bigger issue.

Something affecting your child may also be affecting students and families across the division.

You can have a voice before decisions are final.

The SEAC reviews proposed policies and practices and makes recommendations to the school board.

You can help influence change.

Family input can help shape priorities, policies, services, and supports for students with disabilities throughout the school division.

You don't have to become a member to participate.

SEAC meetings are open to the public, and families can attend, listen, and provide public comment.

FAMILY VOICES ARE AT THE HEART OF SEACs

More than half of a SEAC's members must be parents of children with disabilities or people with disabilities.

THREE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

ATTEND

Go to a SEAC meeting. SEACs meet at least four times each school year, and meetings are open to the public. Check your school division's website for meeting dates.

SHARE

Speak during public comment, submit written comments, email the SEAC, or respond to a SEAC survey.

JOIN

Consider becoming a SEAC member. The local school board appoints members. Contact your school board office or Director of Special Education to learn how to apply.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE

SEAC does not address individual student cases or resolve individual IEP disagreements. Its role is to look at **system-wide issues affecting students with disabilities.** If you have a concern specifically about your child's IEP or services, start with your child's IEP team.



LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

VDOE Local SEAC Information and Resources

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/data-policy-funding/virginia-board-of-education/board-committee-meetings/state-special-education-advisory-committee-sseac/local-special-education-advisory-committees>

SEAC Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees in Virginia

<https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/3238/639246452543100000>

PEATC offers both self-paced and live virtual SEAC trainings throughout the year. Contact us for upcoming dates and information.

