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Special Education Advisory Panel

Orientation Program

2016-17

Ned Whitehead, Chair
Luz Hernandez, Vice Chair
Lucille Piggott-Prawl, Secretary



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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Advisory Panel - Purpose



The State must establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.
34 CFR Section 300.167

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Special Rule



A majority of the members of the panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).

34 CFR 300.168(b)

SEAP – Membership

- Parents of children with disabilities, ages birth through 26;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- Teachers;
- Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;

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SEAP – Membership (cont.)

- State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
- Administrators of programs for children with disabilities;

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SEAP – Membership (cont.)

- Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
- Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;

SEAP – Membership (cont.)

- Not less than one representative of a vocational, community or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;
- A representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care;
- Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

Advisory Panel Duties



- (1) Advise the State Educational Agency of unmet needs within the Commonwealth in the education of children with disabilities.

34CFR 300.169(a)

Advisory Panel Duties



(2) Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the Commonwealth regarding the education of children with disabilities

34CFR 330.169(b)

Advisory Panel Duties



(3) Advise the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)/Bureau of Special Education (BSE) in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary.

34CFR 300.169(c)

Advisory Panel Duties



(4) Advise PDE/BSE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports.

34CFR 300.169(d)

Advisory Panel Duties



(5) Advise the PDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities

34 CFR 300.169(e)

Advisory Panel Duties



(6) Advise the PDE on other issues as deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Director of the Bureau of Special Education, or their respective designees from time-to-time

(SEAP By-Laws)

Advisory Panel Duties



(7) Advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons, even if, consistent with applicable regulations, the Commonwealth assigns general supervision responsibility for those students to a public agency other than the State Educational Agency.

(SEAP By-Laws)

Advisory Panel Duties



(8) Undertake any other activities or actions required from time to time by its governing statutes and/or regulations.

(SEAP By-Laws)

Role of BSE/BEIS Directors

- Ad hoc member
- Provides information to panel members
- Assists in panel agenda development
- Reports to the panel on topical issues
- Provides a “State-of-the-State” report

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Role of SEAP Members

- To represent a constituency view.
- To advise, not advocate.
- To base advice on facts, data and good judgment.

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Advisory, not advocacy, in nature

- Advise means to inform, counsel, recommend, suggest, or guide.
- Advocate means to plead your case or position, to favor an individual case or argument.

The role of the SEAP is to provide advice based on facts and good judgment from diverse stakeholder perspectives.

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SEAP By-Laws

- I. Responsibilities
- II. Membership
- III. Officers
- IV. Committees
- V. SEAP Members Participating with Other Groups
- VI. Length of Term
- VII. Meetings
- VIII. Facilitation
- IX. Resignation or Removal of Members, Replacement
- X. Amendments to By-Laws

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SEAP By-Laws

Special Note: Section V

SEAP Members Participating with Other Groups

- SEAP members are not to act as a representative of the Panel for any committee or organization without consent of the Panel.

- Views and opinions are to reflect those of the Panel and not of the individual.

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Special Note

By tradition, Panel members are careful that their personal statements not be attributed to the Panel. In other words, our members typically are involved in a great many activities and express public opinions on a range of issues. It is important that they insure that those statements not be attributed to the Panel. For the Panel to take a position, there must be a formal vote, and then the Panel designates who will present that position publicly and by what means.

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SEAP Meeting Practices

- SEAP Roles
- Quorum
- Robert's Rules of Order
- Consensus Building
- Agenda Building
- Meeting Norms

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Robert's Rules Basics

For most types of motions (advice to BSE or BEIS)

1. A motion is made
 2. The motion is seconded *
 3. The Chair “states” the question
 4. Debate on the merits of the motion
 5. The Chair “puts/calls” the question
 6. The Chair “announces” the result
- (Simple majority on most types of motions)*

* Committee recommendations need no second

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2016-2017 Action Priorities

Action Priorities

- SPP Target Setting & Improvement Strategies
- Preschool Inclusion/Schoolage Least Restrictive Environment Committee
- Systemic Transition Issues Committee
- Mental Health Committee
- Crisis Intervention/Restraint Reduction Committee
- By-Laws Committee

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2016-2017 Action Priorities

Committees

- Preschool Inclusion/Schoolage Least Restrictive Environment Committee
- Systemic Transition Issues Committee
- Mental Health Committee
- Crisis Intervention/Restraint Reduction Committee
- By-Laws Committee

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2016-2017 Informational Priorities

- BEIS Priorities
- BEIS Family Engagement
- ESSA-IDEA Reauthorization
- Higher Education
- Licensed Private Academic Schools Regulations
- Autism Works – SAP, Hewlett-Packard, Microsoft Grant
- Evaluation/Re-evaluation Annotated Reports
- Para-Educator Training

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2016-2017 Updates

- SEAP Motion Updates
- Legislative Updates

Other:

- BSE-BEIS Initiatives “Directory”

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2016-2017 Committees

**State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report/
State Systemic Improvement Plan**

BSE and BEIS

Whole SEAP Committee

- Advise target setting
- Advise improvement activities

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2016-2017 Committees

Preschool Inclusion/Schoolage Least Restrictive Environment Committee

Committee Goals:

- Compare the differences/similarities of four LRE questions on IEPs for preschool and school age.
- Explore (survey) the usage/effectiveness of SAS Toolkit and four LRE questions by IEP team.

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2016-2017 Committees

Transition Committee

Committee Goals:

- Propose recommendations for “Guiding Questions” for Transition Section of IEP
- Propose recommendations for mechanisms/procedures/materials to increase interagency collaboration in support of “STW” Transition.

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2016-2017 Committees

Mental Health Committee

Committee Goals:

- Close active work on Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) recommendations
 - Review all previous RTF/partial hospitalization recommendations.
 - Support Shaye Erhard in role as SEAP liaison to MH RTF Committee work.
 - Finalize materials with recommendations on RTF.

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2016-2017 Committees

Mental Health Committee

Committee Goals:

- Review and make recommendations related to collaborative work between districts and providers.
 - Identify best practices of school based MH models and proactive approaches.
 - Identify recommendations for sustainability of school based MH procedures and plans.

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2016-2017 Committees

Crisis Intervention and Restraint Prevention/Reduction Committee

Committee Goals:

- Advise BSE/BEIS on data collection, guidelines development, best practices (vendor/training)
- Advise BSE/BEIS and develop comments on IDEA (Chapter 14) reauthorization.
- Advise BEIS on training, strategies for preschool students with disabilities.
- Communicate with BSE regarding Annual RISC Report.

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2016-2017 Committees

By-Laws Committee

Committee Goals:

- Update Pennsylvania SEAP By-Laws.

Committee Expectations

- Committee Formation
- Committee Goals and Strategies
- Committee Work Product Expectations
- Examples

Committee Formation

- SEAP committees are formed in response to the workplan for the upcoming year.
- The workplan is based on the identification of issues of priority for SEAP attention during the meeting year.
- Priority identification comes from BSE, BEIS, SEAP members.

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Committee Outcomes

- Outcomes vary depending on the charge of the committee – Action or Information
- All committees are expected to provide a report to the full Panel

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Committee Outcomes

- Information Only Priorities
- The results of information obtained by the committee either through independent research or Panel presentations by experts.
- BSE/BEIS and PaTTAN staff are available to provide information for the committees
- Information can be provided to individual committees or to the entire Panel

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Committee Outcomes

- Committee Recommendations
- Specific and substantive recommendations for action by the BSE, BEIS, or SEAP
- Should be based on factual information and advise a specific action to be taken
- SEAP reviews all recommendations, suggests amendments, discusses, then votes on final recommendations

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Committee Work Strategies

- Time is allotted at each Wednesday evening meeting for committees to meet
- Committees may utilize conference calls or go-to-meetings with assistance from SEAP administrative support – Lisa
- Time on the agenda for full Panel presentations or discussions can be obtained

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Helpful Resources

- Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network website
www.pattan.net

- A Primer for State Special Education Advisory Panel Members and SEA Staff
Appendix B: Special Education Acronyms

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Helpful Resources

- State Advisory Panel on Special Education
- www.stateadvisorypanel.org