

# KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Dedicated to the Education of  
"ALL"*



## **Annual Report** **July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008**

Special Education Services  
Kansas State Department of Education  
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## Table of Contents

<b>Secretary's Report.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kansas Special Education Advisory Council .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Council Membership.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Council Leadership .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Operational Standards.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Council Accomplishments .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix A: SEAC Action Plan.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix B: Advise &amp; Recommendations to KSBE .....</b>	<b>19</b>



# Secretary's Report

The overarching focus of Kansas special education is to improve outcomes for students and their families. Services for students who have special educational needs in Kansas are continuously improving because of the dedication and commitment of many exemplary teachers and administrators who are supported by concerned and invested parents who work in partnership with the schools. Another Kansas asset, often overlooked because of their work behind the scenes of Kansas education, is the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The primary motivation for individuals to accept appointments to SEAC is the focus on quality improvement in the Kansas education system, particularly as it relates to students with special needs. The SEAC members voluntarily meet on a regular basis, study issues of significance, provide a representative advocacy function, and advise the Special Education Services team on matters of special education. This report summarizes the activity and accomplishments of SEAC for the 2007 – 2008 school year.

SEAC continues to function as an advisory panel to the Kansas State Board of Education. The State Board appoints members to SEAC. SEAC advises the State Board in five key areas as required by the implementing regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and by Kansas Statutes. Those areas include:

- Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with exceptionalities.

SEAC has represented its constituencies well during the past year and has been productively engaged in fulfilling its legal commitments and mission on behalf of students. SEAC's 2007 – 2008 accomplishments are wide ranging. To summarize, SEAC has been involved in these activities of importance:

- ✓ Provide oversight of the implementation of IDEA and state regulations through review of the Kansas Integrated Accountability System (KIAS) and focused monitoring, due process and formal complaint
- ✓ Review and comment on the Kansas Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to OSEP
- ✓ Study and advise on issues identified in the Kansas State Performance Plan (SPP): Early Childhood least restrictive environment, positive behavioral support, secondary transition, vocational special needs, and the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- ✓ Promote interagency work through discussions with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and agencies collaborating on the Foster Care database
- ✓ Study practices impacting disproportionate representation in Special Education
- ✓ Study Effective Schools Advisory Council practices
- ✓ Study issues of state assessments as they relate to students with disabilities
- ✓ Review and comment on Statewide Professional Development Grant projects
- ✓ Review and comment on Kansas Statewide Technical Assistance & Resource System (KSTARS) projects
- ✓ Serve as a sounding board for the public and current and emerging public organizations
- ✓ Review the implementation of the redesign of teacher licensure
- ✓ Review and comment on the KSDE coordination of services
- ✓ Monitor and review state and federal legislative issues

SEAC serves a valuable role in representing the stakeholders of Kansas special education services. There is no question that because of SEAC investment in the future, students with special needs will have a better chance of fulfilling their lifelong dreams. The State of Kansas is fortunate to have an active and involved SEAC.

Colleen Riley,  
Director Special Education Services  
Secretary of the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (2007 – 2008)



# Annual Report

## Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

### Introduction

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has met for six one or two-day meetings during the 2007 – 2008 school year.

It is anticipated that the SEAC Action Plan priority areas for 2008 – 2009 will reflect the following areas:

- ✓ Priority Area 1: Advising the State Education Agency on unmet needs
- ✓ Priority Area 2: Comment publicly on any rules or regulations
- ✓ Priority Area 3: Advise the State Education Agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data
- ✓ Priority Area 4: Advise the State Education Agency in developing federal monitoring reports
- ✓ Priority Area 5: Advise the State Education Agency in developing and implementing policies related to coordination of services

For each priority area, key areas of activity are also identified and can be reviewed in the Appendix A (2007-08 SEAC Action Plan).

### Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

The SEAC is composed of individuals in, or concerned with, the education of children with exceptionalities. The council performs such duties as specified by law, statute or regulation and as outlined in the Kansas SEAC manual. The major responsibilities of the council are to advise, consult and provide recommendations to the Kansas State Board of Education regarding matters concerning special education services. Much of the work is directed through the Special Education Services team.

The primary role of the council is as an advocate for achieving excellence, equity and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. As such, it is committed to representing individuals with diverse and changing educational needs. The role of advocate presupposes a sensitivity and responsiveness to these needs. This responsibility leads the SEAC to support the vision and mission of KSBE and the Learning Services Division - Special Education Services:

#### Vision

Schools will work with families and communities to prepare students for success.

#### Mission

The mission of the Kansas State Department of Education Division of Learning Services is to work collaboratively to provide leadership for continuous improvement of educational systems to insure and enhance learning for all students in Kansas.

## **SEAC Goal**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for all students in Kansas.

## **SEAC Beliefs**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to life long learning. SEAC believes that:

- Partnerships increase collaboration for better services.
- Visionary leadership is essential for appropriate services to meet the needs of all students.
- Innovation is essential to the process of life long learning.
- All child service systems must be provided in an integrated and collaborative manner.
- Education is an evolving process that requires innovation, continuous growth, and evaluation.
- The needs of individuals in a diverse community must be met.

## **Council Membership**

The 2007-08 SEAC is composed of fifteen individuals concerned with the education of children with exceptionalities and the state director of Special Education Services. Nine of the members of the council are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The 2007-2008 membership include:



# *State Advisory Council for Special Education*

## *FY 2007-08*

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Board Region</b>	<b>Appointment Expires</b>
Kendra Bittner	1837 S Osage Drive Ottawa, KS 66067 785-242-8011 <a href="mailto:bittneranesthesia@sbcglobal.net">bittneranesthesia@sbcglobal.net</a>	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	3	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Ann Byington	909 SW College Topeka, KS 66606 785-233-3839 <a href="mailto:abyington@cox.net">abyington@cox.net</a>	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	4	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Susan Clayton	PO Box 86 Mullinville, KS 67109 620-548-2520 <a href="mailto:ronandsusanc@yahoo.com">ronandsusanc@yahoo.com</a>	Parent of a child or person with a disability *	7	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Janice Frahm	1553 County Road T Colby, KS 67701 785-462-7388 <a href="mailto:jfracm@st-tel.net">jfracm@st-tel.net</a>	LEA Official *	5	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Lesli Girard	Families Together, Inc. 501 SW Jackson Suite 400 Topeka, KS 66603 785-233-4777 <a href="mailto:lesli@famielstogethelinc.org">lesli@famielstogethelinc.org</a>	Parent Training Center	4	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Neil Guthrie (Chair)	201 N Water Wichita KS 67202 316-973-4425 <a href="mailto:nguthrie@usd259.net">nguthrie@usd259.net</a>	Local Education Official	8	June 2010 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Mary Lou Heller	502 North Pine Beloit KS 67420 785-738-3352 <a href="mailto:kitsjamjarr@nckcn.com">kitsjamjarr@nckcn.com</a>	Teacher *	5	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Penny Hoffman	823 West 5 <sup>th</sup> St. Larned, KS 67550 620-285-7364 <a href="mailto:phoffman@usd495.k12.ks.us">phoffman@usd495.k12.ks.us</a>	Juvenile Justice	5	June 2008 (Partial 1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Kathy Kersembrock-Ostmeyer	NW ESC 703 West Second Oakley, KS 67748 785-672-3125 <a href="mailto:kko@nkesc.org">kko@nkesc.org</a>	Vocational, community or business organization concerned with provision of transition services *	5	June 2010 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Larry Meyer (Chair-elect)	SEKESC PO Box 19227 Topeka KS 66619 785-862-7840 <a href="mailto:larry.meyer@greenbush.org">larry.meyer@greenbush.org</a>	Adult Corrections	1	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

<b>Council Member</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Board Region</b>	<b>Appointment Expires</b>
Bert Moore	410 N Hobart Severy KS 67137 620-374-2113 <a href="mailto:bmoore@sktc.net">bmoore@sktc.net</a>	Administrator of Exceptional Programs; Homeless education	9	June 2008 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Anne Roberts	KVC Behavioral Healthcare Inc. 21350 W 153 <sup>rd</sup> St Olathe, KS 66061 913-322-4900 x 4902 <a href="mailto:aroberts@kvc.org">aroberts@kvc.org</a>	Foster Care Agency	3	June 2008 (Partial 1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Vicki Sharp	5209 W 68th Prairie Village, KS 66208 913-634-5330 <a href="mailto:vlcsharp@kc.rr.com">vlcsharp@kc.rr.com</a>	Parent of a Child - with Giftedness *	2	June 2008 (Partial 1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Sean Smith	University of Kansas 1122 W Campus Road JRP 538 Lawrence, KS 66045 785-331-2974 <a href="mailto:seanj@ku.edu">seanj@ku.edu</a>	IHE Special Education *	4	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Terry-Ellen Stewart-Deseck	1921 SW Oakley Topeka, KS 66604 785-233-7962 <a href="mailto:Terrystools@cox.net">Terrystools@cox.net</a>	Private Schools *	4	June 2010 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)

## **Council Leadership**

The officers for the 2007-2008 year were: Chair, Neil Guthrie; Vice-Chair, Larry Meyer. They were unanimously elected to fulfill the obligations of these positions at the April 2007 council meeting.

The 2007-2008 Executive Committee was comprised of: Neil Guthrie, Chair; Larry Meyer, Vice-Chair; Colleen Riley, Secretary; and Sean Smith, parent of a child with a disability. The executive committee met one time prior to each SEAC meeting to establish the SEAC agenda, and represented the council at CEC and OSEP Leadership Conference.

## **Council Advise and Recommendations to Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE)**

The Council was called upon on by the KSBE on various occasions to provide position papers or recommendations in the following areas of interest. Copies of those responses are contained in Appendix B of this report.

- Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Bill of Rights
- Autism Task Force
- Dyslexia proposals
- Gifted Education
- Seclusion

## **Operational Standards**

The SEAC's 2007-2008 meeting schedule was as follows:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
July 25 '07	Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita KS
September 11 '07	KSDE, Topeka KS
October 31 '07	KSDE, Topeka KS
January 8-9 '08	KSDE, Topeka KS
February 13 '08	KSDE, Topeka KS
April 16 '08	KSDE, Topeka KS

The Council must conduct a minimum of four (4) regular, one-day meetings. The 2007-2008 year exceeded this standard by holding seven meetings, one of which was a two-day meeting.

Official minutes of the meetings were kept, reviewed at each following meeting for accuracy, and posted on the KSDE Special Education Services website at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2466> .

A public comment period was offered at each SEAC meeting. There were five occasions that this portion of the meeting was filled this year.

## **Council Accomplishments**

Appendix A provides a summary of the activities completed for the 2007-2008 school year by Priority and Action Area.

# **Appendix A**

## **2007-2008 SEAC Action Plan**



**Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)  
Action Plan  
2007-2008**

The purpose of the SEAC is to advocate for achieving excellence, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. It is the responsibility of SEAC to:

- Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any rules and regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with exceptionalities.

To meet these responsibilities, the Kansas SEAC outlines the following action plan.

**1. Area of Focus: Advising the SEA of unmet needs**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
1.1 Increase awareness & understanding of provision of services from the public perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SpEd Parent Survey</li> <li>• On-line public comment forum</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment notifications posted on <a href="http://www.kansped.org">www.kansped.org</a> website, and sent on public listserve (SpEd Express).</li> </ul> <p>11/06: Members reviewed an e-mail communication voicing concerns about the Special Education state assessment – 2% KAMM, 1% alternate assessment, and grade level comparison between Special Education and regular education students.</p>	Members will receive updates
1.2 Develop recommendations and suggested solutions for unmet needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autism</li> <li>• Gifted</li> <li>• Seclusion/Restraint</li> </ul>	<p>4/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received a report from a committee on the study of an Autism Waiver</li> </ul>	Members will receive updates

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>2/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members adopted a letter of support to the State Board of Education encouraging adoption of the KSDE Seclusion/Restraint Guideline as opposed to adoption of a regulations document.</li> <li>• Members received draft SRS Proposal for an Early Intervention Autism Waiver.</li> <li>• Members received a draft document regarding Gifted IEP was distributed to members.</li> </ul> <p>11/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were made aware that KSDE Deaf Education Guidelines are being drafted and are expected to be reviewed for public comment</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive updates</p> <p>Members will receive/review final document</p> <p>Members will receive/review draft document prior to going out for public comment</p>

**2. Area of Focus: Comment publicly on any rules or regulations**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
<p>2.1 Study and provide comment on proposed federal and state laws and regulations and assist in implementation of changes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• state and federal web sites</li> </ul>	<p>4/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members reviewed the draft KSDE Special Education Regulations which are being reviewed by the State Board.</li> </ul> <p>1/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KSDE Staff Rod Bieker provided an overview of the draft 2004 Kansas IDEA Regulations</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive/review final document</p>



Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		11/06: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCLB sub-committee met to develop “talking points” document that members will utilize for future planning.</li> </ul>	Members were provided document
2.2 Increase awareness and visibility of SEAC.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on <a href="http://www.kansped.org">www.kansped.org</a> website, and sent out on public listserv (SpEd Express).</li> </ul> 4/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member provided an overview of their attendance at the KSDE Law Conference.</li> </ul> 2/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided letter of support to the State Board of Education concerning adoption of the KSDE Seclusion/Restraint Guideline.</li> </ul> 1/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were introduced to the KSBE and answered questions regarding the 2006-07 SEAC Annual Report which KSBE members received. Dr. Bob Maile provided a short presentation of SEAC activities to the KSBE.</li> <li>• Members hosted the KSBE to a breakfast get-acquainted meeting.</li> <li>• Members provided the KSBE a “talking points” position paper voicing concerns with NCLB</li> </ul>	

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		reauthorization.  7/06: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members attended the KSDE Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS.</li> <li>• Members provided an overview of the OSEP Annual Conference they attended in Washington, DC.</li> </ul>	
2.3 Monitor and disseminate data related to placement, LRE, and IEP quality and recommend improvement strategies to the SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placement by ethnic groups &amp; categories</li> <li>• LRE data by district, trend data</li> <li>• IEP monitoring data</li> <li>• IEP training materials</li> <li>• EC LRE data</li> <li>• Statewide IEP</li> </ul>	1/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received information about the CEC clearinghouse on research-based strategies – what works and doesn't.</li> <li>• Members received information concerning an SRS project to Keys for Networking, designed to help improve the graduation rate for out-of-home placed youth age 15 and older by looking at records and accessing services for these youth.</li> <li>• Members received a draft document regarding Gifted IEP.</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review final document

**3. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA in developing evaluations, reporting on data and in responding to federal monitoring.**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
<p>3.1 Provide oversight of the implementation of federal and state special education laws and new regulations to ensure Kansas has effective systems in place to monitor compliance and support improved achievement and outcomes for children &amp; students with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data for APR indicators</li> <li>• Data &amp; review of due process hearings, mediation &amp; formal complaints</li> <li>• Monitoring data</li> <li>• File review data</li> <li>• Focused Monitoring data</li> <li>• 618 data</li> </ul>	<p>11/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were informed that the KSDE SSS Process Handbook is being updated with an expected fall, 2007 release.</li> </ul> <p>7/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members provided an overview of the OSEP Annual Conference they attended in Washington, DC</li> <li>• Members participated in OSEP monitoring pre-visit conference calls.</li> <li>• Members discussed “talking points” around reauthorization of 2004 IDEA in 2007</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive/review final document</p>
<p>3.2 Assist in the dissemination of information in the area of transition to help ensure Kansas can demonstrate compliance with IDEA 2004 and regulations.</p>		<p>1/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members provided feedback on the draft State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07</li> </ul>	<p>Members will provide continued input as needed</p>
<p>3.3 Analyze the effect the adopted licensure design has on the quality of special education services.</p>		<p>4/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received an update of the Performance-based Licensing System and Standards, as mandated by the State Board in 1992.</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive updates</p>
<p>3.4 Analyze the data on the educational progress of students with exceptionalities and make recommendations to enhance their educational program, services, and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AYP results</li> <li>• State assessment data</li> <li>• Suspension/expulsion data</li> <li>• Graduation/drop-out rates</li> <li>• EC achievement</li> <li>• Post-secondary outcomes</li> </ul>	<p>4/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received an overview of an ad-hoc committee’s work on a draft Bill of Rights for Deaf &amp; Hard of Hearing Children</li> </ul> <p>2/07:</p>	<p>Members will receive updates</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
achievement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition follow-up data (TOPS)</li> <li>• APR/SPP</li> <li>• File Review</li> <li>• Autism Guidelines</li> <li>• Seclusion/Restraint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEAC provided a letter to the State Board of Education members during the board’s public hearing on seclusion and restraint regulations, in support of the proposed guidelines, with the recommendation to include careful monitoring of compliance and an annual summary presented to and reviewed by the SEAC.</li> <li>• Members received information concerning how Kansas identifies dyslexia and how services are provided.</li> </ul> <p>1/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KSDE staff Jeanette Souther &amp; Dr. Margy Hornback reported on the progress for completion of the State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07, which consists of reporting data on 20 indicators. The Annual Performance Report (APR) is an update/progress report of the SPP.</li> </ul> <p>10/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were updated on the work being done by the SPP stakeholders group to assist development of targets for 20 indicators.</li> </ul> <p>7/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were provided information concerning statewide public hearings on Autism Guidelines vs. Regulations.</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive/review final document</p> <p>Members will receive/review final document</p> <p>Members will be updated.</p>

<p>3.5 As stakeholders, assist in the interpretation of Kansas data in reporting to the public and federal government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APR &amp; SPP</li> </ul>	<p>2/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members reviewed the State Performance Report &amp; Annual Performance Reports that was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs on February 1 '07.</li> </ul> <p>1/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members provided feedback on the draft State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07</li> </ul> <p>10/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members were updated on the work being done by the SPP stakeholders group to assist development of targets for 20 indicators.</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive/review final document</p> <p>Members will receive periodic updates</p>
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**4. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA on personnel development**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
<p>4.1 Evaluate the conditions of special education teachers in Kansas, and study relevant issues and assist with dissemination of information about improving retention of special education teachers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel reports</li> </ul>	<p>1-07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received an update of the Building-level Administration Graduate Program @ KU from Tom Skrtic.</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive periodic updates</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
4.2 Ascertain supply & diversity of Special Education personnel available to all geographic areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel reports</li> </ul>	1-07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received an update from the Teacher Education &amp; Licensure team (TEAL)</li> </ul>	

**5. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies related to coordination of services**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
<p>5.1 Enhance school-family-community partnerships by encouraging and developing coordinated programs and/or services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parent survey for SPP Indicator 8</li> </ul>	<p>11/06:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members were provided an overview of Kansas School for the Blind proposed statewide plan of training, resources and support for families who have young children with hearing loss to ensure they receive comprehensive, unbiased information and support through regional consultation within the tiny-k networks.</li> </ul>	
<p>5.2 Promote and enhance the blending of services between special and general education, including federal, state, and local programs (Title I, Special Ed.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>KSDE multi-tiered model for statewide use</li> </ul>	<p>2/07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members were provided an overview of training opportunities that provide educators in Kansas with a pro-active approach to schools that are restructuring academic and behavior supports to improve outcomes for all students.</li> </ul> <p>1/07</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members received information about KSDE’s development of a guidance document around a multi-tier model of providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need in general education.</li> </ul> <p>2/07:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members received an overview of a proposed 2007-2012 Kansas State Personnel Development Grant Application</li> </ul>	<p>Members will receive periodic updates</p> <p>Members will receive/review final document</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
5.3 Review & acknowledge blended programs including mental health issues.		4/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members agreed to take a position to support KSDE as lead agency for Part C Infant &amp; Toddler Services by addressing the Governor with a letter of support</li> </ul> 1/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received information about a change to Lead Agency for Part C Infant and Toddler Services, along with the copy of a letter to the Governor's Office .</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates

**6. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA on student identification**

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
6.1 Review & evaluate the system to identify under-represented students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SPP</li> </ul>	1/07: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members received an update of the Infinitec Coalition which supports assistive technology and training to district staff. 52% of districts statewide currently participate.</li> <li>• Members received a handout comparison from KASB of public &amp; private school services.</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates



# **Appendix B**

## **Council Advise and Recommendations to State Board of Education (KSBE)**





## **Kansas Special Education Advisory Council**

120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka KS 66612-1182 (785) 296-6338 (TTY) [www.kansped.org](http://www.kansped.org)

*"Dedicated to the Education of "ALL"*

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

A Report to the Kansas State Board of Education

Prepared by Bert Moore

September 11, 2007

I would like to take this opportunity to ask the State Board to continue to utilize the Special Education Advisory Council whenever parents or vendors approach the Board over matters related to individuals with disabilities between the ages of birth through age 26. The State Board has made several requests to solicit input from the Special Education Advisory Council, specifically in the areas of Autism and Seclusion & Restraint. We explored these topics and provided a formal written and oral report to the Board.

The Council is representative of a wide range of stakeholders including a requirement that a majority of our members be individuals with a disability or parents of children with disabilities. This year there were 41 applicants for the 8 open positions. This is a tremendous change from several years ago when we had empty positions with no candidates to fill them. This shows that there is a strong interest in serving on the Council.

In our brochure you will find the following:

*One of the major functions of the Advisory Council is to serve as liaison between the statewide populace and the Kansas State Board of Education.*

*The mission of the Kansas State Special Education Advisory Council is to work collaboratively to provide leadership for continuous improvement of educational systems to ensure equity and enhance learning for all students in Kansas.*

The Special Education Advisory Council is prepared to explore whatever topic(s) the State Board would like for us to review.





## Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

120 SE 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka KS 66612-1182 (785) 296-6338 (TTY) [www.kansped.org](http://www.kansped.org)

*"Dedicated to the Education of "ALL"*

Date: November 7, 2007

To: Mr. Bill Wagnon, KSBE Chairperson

From: Neil Guthrie, SEAC Chairperson

CC: Alexa Posny, Commissioner  
Tom Foster, Interim Deputy Commissioner  
Colleen Riley, Director

RE: SEAC Recommendations

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is "Dedicated to the Education of All", advocating for a unitary education system that achieves excellence, equity and life-long learning for all individuals in Kansas and includes stakeholders who are parents, educators and representatives from various agencies that work directly with persons who have disabilities. SEAC seriously discussed and considered the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) charge to make recommendations to the Board regarding the issues raised on autism, dyslexia and the Deaf Education and Hard of Hearing (DEHH) Bill of Rights. On October 31, 2007 the SEAC reviewed comments on the above areas, followed with intense discussion in order to make recommendations to the board.

As SEAC heard from each of the advocacy groups for autism, dyslexia and the DEHH Bill of Rights, all three are requesting specific protections for its particular area that go above and beyond what is required in both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004 and Kansas laws and regulations.

- Specifically, advocates for the DEHH Bill of Rights want legislation passed to include 15 features which they promote as "essential to ensure that all deaf and hard of hearing children have appropriate, on-going and fully accessible education opportunities". These 15 features are written in specific language, which if passed, would *require* districts to go beyond the scope of IDEA 2004.
- Advocates for the Autism Task Force appear to be interested in having state funds specifically set aside for students who have autism. State funding is currently provided for districts to deliver appropriate supports and services to all students with disabilities. The supports and services currently provided are individualized to meet the student's needs and include communication skills, social development, behavioral and emotional training, cognitive development, sensory and motor development, preacademic and academic development and parent training and support. Dividing state funding for special education based upon a specific disability is not a prudent or beneficial step for the state.
- Advocates for dyslexia want legislation passed that would require all teachers to screen students annually for dyslexia, similar to legislation passed over 20 years ago in Texas. Currently in Kansas,

there are a number of ways to provide supports and services to students who struggle in the area of reading or may be dyslexic. The requirement to provide general education interventions has been in Kansas state regulations for over 10 years and requires educators to implement strategies when a student begins to experience difficulty. If the interventions do not work, then the process is started to determine if the student has a specific learning disability or some other disability, such as other health impairment.

#### SEAC Recommendation

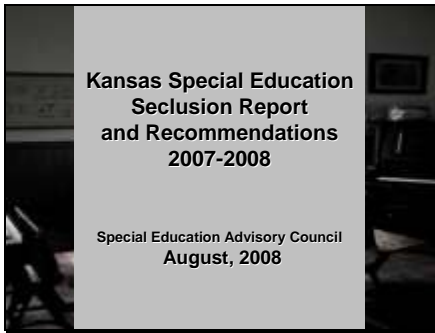
SEAC unanimously agrees that there is no single methodology that can be applied to each student or that there is a “magic bullet” solution in meeting the needs of students.

Please know however, that with early intervention, periodic monitoring of student progress, the encouragement of collaborative relationships between parents, educators and other agency representatives, appropriate services can be provided to students in Kansas public schools.

In addition, SEAC supports the KSDE Special Education Services Team moving forward to develop *guidelines* to help parents and educators in the areas of autism and deaf education and hard of hearing to be knowledgeable of the needs of children and supports and services to address those needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide recommendations to you regarding important topics in special education.

Slide 1



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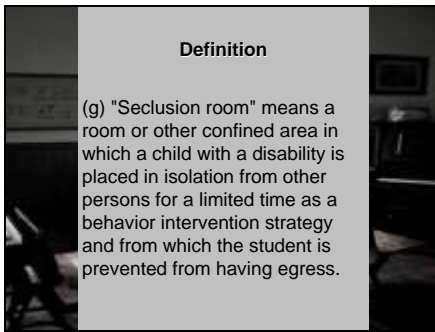
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Slide 2



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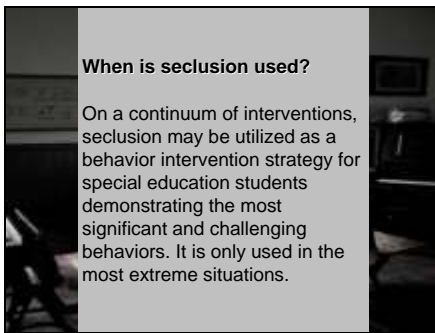
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Slide 3



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Slide 4

Based on concerns from parents and the field to monitor the use of seclusion in Kansas schools, the Kansas State Board of Education adopted Seclusion Guidelines in April 2007 which stipulate schools must report specific data on the use of seclusion for special education students.

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Slide 5

**Seclusion Timeline**  
**Spring 2007** – State Board adopts requirement for schools to report seclusion data  
**Summer 2007** – Information provided to the field on definitions and reporting requirements  
**2007-08 School Year** – During the Fall 2007, the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Seclusion Reporting begins. Schools report seclusion data again for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters

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Slide 6

**Board Approved Questions:**  
How many individual students with disabilities were placed in seclusion during the current reporting period?  
What was the maximum number of times that a student was in seclusion in one day?  
What was the maximum amount of time (minutes) any child was in seclusion on a single occasion?  
The name of the school, grades offered at the school, the length, width, and height of each of the seclusion rooms located in the school.

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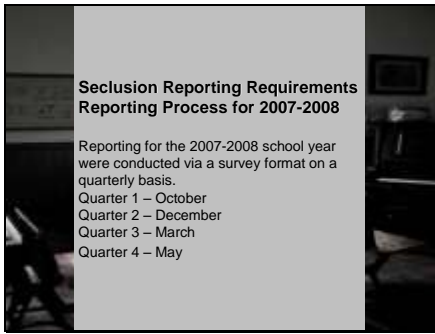
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Slide 7



**Seclusion Reporting Requirements  
Reporting Process for 2007-2008**

Reporting for the 2007-2008 school year were conducted via a survey format on a quarterly basis.

- Quarter 1 – October
- Quarter 2 – December
- Quarter 3 – March
- Quarter 4 – May

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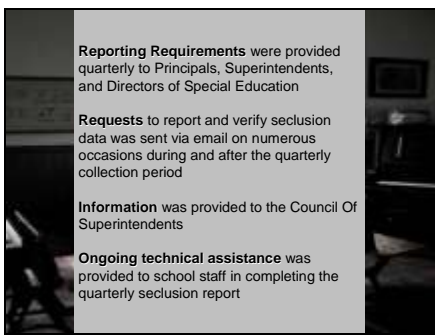
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Slide 8



**Reporting Requirements** were provided quarterly to Principals, Superintendents, and Directors of Special Education

**Requests** to report and verify seclusion data was sent via email on numerous occasions during and after the quarterly collection period

**Information** was provided to the Council Of Superintendents

**Ongoing technical assistance** was provided to school staff in completing the quarterly seclusion report

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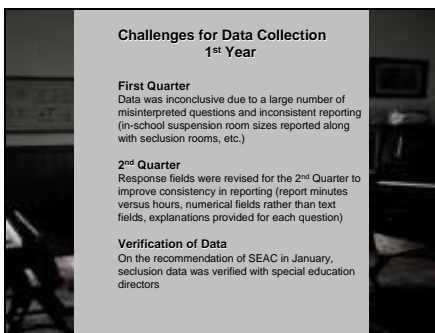
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Slide 9



**Challenges for Data Collection  
1<sup>st</sup> Year**

**First Quarter**  
Data was inconclusive due to a large number of misinterpreted questions and inconsistent reporting (in-school suspension room sizes reported along with seclusion rooms, etc.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**  
Response fields were revised for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter to improve consistency in reporting (report minutes versus hours, numerical fields rather than text fields, explanations provided for each question)

**Verification of Data**  
On the recommendation of SEAC in January, seclusion data was verified with special education directors

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Slide 10

**Data Verification**

After data was submitted, directors of special education reviewed the seclusion data from schools in their catchment area and provided follow up to KSDE

In some cases, the Special Education Services Team requested a review of IEPs and documentation regarding seclusion data

Recommendations and issues of compliance were identified

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Slide 11

**Special Education Seclusion Data: Conclusions**

During each reporting period, of approximately 1800 schools in Kansas 5% (95 schools) used seclusion

During each reporting period, approximately half of the 95 schools secluded one student

During each reporting period, the majority of seclusions incidents for a student was 2 times or less in a day

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Slide 12

**Implementation for the 2008-2009 School Year**

Information regarding the number of seclusion rooms per school, the seclusion room height, length, and width, school name and grade levels is in the process of being collected through the annual Directory Update conducted at the beginning of each year.

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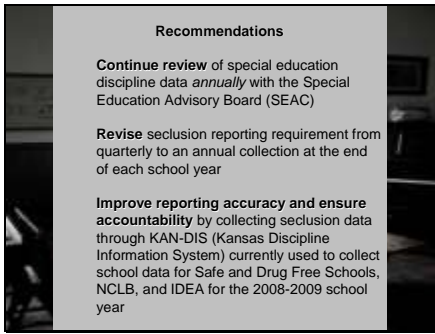
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Slide 13



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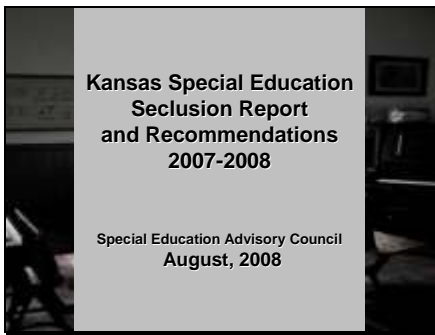
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Slide 14



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