



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES



Details

Date September 16, 2021

Time 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual

Call to Order: at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members (x present, blank absent):

x	Jennifer King	x	Lena Kisner – Admin	x	Whitney George
x	Heath Peine	x	Marvin Miller		
	Amy Wagoner	x	Matthew Ramsey		
x	Barney Pontious Parent/Child to 26	x	Michelle Warner – Foster Care		
x	Becci Werner	x	Paul Buck		
x	Brandon Gay	x	Rebecca Shultz		
x	Jennifer Kucinski	x	Sabrina Rishel - Gifted		
	Jennifer Kurth	x	Tobias Wood		Tonya-Interpreter
	Kari Wallace	x	Trisha Backman		Allison-Interpreter
	Laura Thompson		Dr. Troy Pitsch		

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Ex-Officio Members (x present, blank absent):

	Jim McNiece	x	Ashley Enz		
x	Leslie Girard/ Leia Holley, Families Together				
X	Mike Burgess				
	Rocky Nichols				

KSDE Staff:

x	Bert Moore	x	Laura Jurgensen		Kerry Haag
x	Kelli Byrne	x	Kayla Love	x	Dean Zajic
x	Shanna Bigler	x	Brian Dempsey		
x	Cary Rogers	x	Julie Rands		

Guests: Sherri Schwanz, KNEA, Kim Enos, Doug T,

Quorum (11) met: Yes, 16 Voting members present

Introductions of New Members: Bert introduced

Parent of a Gifted Child: Sabrina Rishel

Parent of an Exceptional Child: Barney Pontious

Special Education Administrator: Lena Kisner

Foster Care Agency Administrator: Michelle Warner

Agenda Approval:

Motion to approve: Tobias Wood

Second: Trish Backman

Action: Motion approved

Minutes Approval: July 15, 2021 Minutes

Motion to approve: Tobias Wood

Second: Lena Kisner

Discussion:

Action: Motion approved

Public Comment:

No written comments were submitted for today's meeting. No in person comments were presented.

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State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report SEAC Data and Information Requests

Brian Dempsey, PowerPoint presentation

- Indicator 2 Dropout Data for Special Education
 - Option 1
 - Leaver/Exiter Dropout rate for ages 14-21
 - Internal request for students with disabilities for 2010-2020
 - Option 1 narrows the denominator
 - KSDE will utilize this option beginning FFY20
 - Option 2
 - Measuring students with disabilities, grades 9-12
 - what we have used historically,
 - larger denominator
 - Questions: For students who cannot complete their education due to incarceration, is there any way to pull what percentage are juvenile retention students compared to general population? They are still considered enrolled so it would not affect the Drop Out rate but it would affect the Graduation rate.

- GED Discussion
 - Indicator 1 Graduation – students with IEPS graduating with regular high school diploma
 - The data source has changed to IDEA data for the upcoming period. Same for Dropout data
 - GED program eligibility is managed through KBOR following federal laws
 - Questions:
 - Is there any desire to count GED holders e.g. ages 16-17 who dropout to be counted as graduates? Would involve a statute change? It could be changed in the state but only if the Federal regulations change. It would have to be added as a certificate program, so not expected to be pursued. Regulation change can take 5-6 years.
 - Could a special committee be put together to investigate if this should be pursued? Bert has contacted the Graduation Task Force to ask if a member of SEAC could be represented as a member on their Task Force.

Stakeholder Input on State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report

Laura Jurgensen – Handouts

- New cycle is beginning 6-year cycle and reporting out on 17 indicators on how Kansas is doing in education students with disabilities and are school districts meeting law compliance.
 - SEAC advises SPP/APR on data that is to be submitted to United States Department of Education
- At the beginning of new cycle, all new targets must be set for every indicator
- Stakeholders are surveyed to set new baselines and goals
 - The stakeholder input survey, since we were unable to meet in person with teachers, families, was conducted through email, the website and tableau public

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- Website for Stakeholder information ; <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Special-Education/KIAS/SPP-and-APR>
- Tableau Public site where Stakeholders can review historical data through data visualization:
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/general.supervision.timely.and.accurate.data>
- TASN assisted with input process <https://www.ksdetasn.org/>
- Families Together also supported this process by meeting with all Families Together staff so they could inform families about the importance of the survey.
- We connected with the Interagency Educational Council, Kansas African Affairs Commission, Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission, the Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns, the Kansas Native American Affairs office, and the Kansas Equality coalition, urban district homeless liaisons, and foster care contractors in an effort to diversify responses.
- Responses across indicators – 30 responses on the low end to 100 responses on the high end for individual indicators
- Indicator 8 – Parent Involvement
 - Partner with districts to survey families with children w/ disabilities and IEP
 - Districts allowed to use the distribution method they think is best
 - Changes to this indicator:
 - Census of all families every year instead of random survey from across the state
 - Reduced survey to one question: Did the school district invite you to take part in discussions for improving services and results for your child?
 - The baseline year will be changed once KSDE has accurate data from the upcoming changes
 - Tableau Public – data visualization demonstration
 - Indicator 8 received the most survey responses with 104.
- Indicator 1 Graduation
 - Data source is changing to use exit records in the SPEDPro application
 - Target proposed baseline to FFY 2020
 - Tableau Public – 79 responded
- Indicator 2 Dropout
 - Data source is changing to using SPEDPro from ESEA
 - Creates a large change in percentage for dropout rate
 - Proposed target baseline of FFY 2020
 - Tableau Public – 57 responded
 - Question: Could a note be added to the reports explaining the change in data source resulting in the increased percentage of dropouts? Yes, Laura will forward this idea.
- Indicator 13 target is 100% compliance requirement so there was no survey required
- Indicator 14 Post-School Outcomes
 - Currently sample 1/3 of districts each year and change to all districts every year surveyed.
 - Contractor calls students one year after they leave high school to ask them if

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It is moved that the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council accept the recommendations of the Kansas State Department of Education for proposed baselines and targets on the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report indicators and approve the proposed baselines and targets as presented.

Motion to approve: Trish Backman

Second: Lena Kisner

Motion Approved: approved unanimously

Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Longitudinal Data Discussion

Shanna Bigler - handouts

- Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) Report has been required since 2016 to be submitted annually to the Governor and House and Senate Education Committee.
- This information is given to SEAC, the School Mental Health Advisor Council (SMHAC) and will be posted to the KSDE website.
- The ESI Longitudinal report is new and collected on all students. Data is submitted by districts after each semester.
- Emergency Safety Intervention Trend Data report
 - COVID did impact last year's data
 - Schools can obtain ESI training through 3rd party vendors. But some 3rd party vendors do not train on seclusion so KSDE has begun to clarify Kansas law on this subject and produce Hot Topics videos in the Spring on definition of restraint and timelines for reporting also presented at the special education quarterly meetings. TASN will be updating their videos as well.

TASN Survey

Amy Gaumer Erickson - handouts

- Report from Dr. Julie Morrison handout
- Surveying administrators regarding their perceptions of TASN effectiveness
- TASN is working with KSDE to continuously improve how teachers and districts are supported.

Fiscal Update

Dean Zajic – PowerPoint Presentation and handouts

- Update on Federal Aid
 - website <https://www.ksde.org/Agency/Division-of-Learning-Services/Special-Education-and-Title-Services/Federal-Disaster-and-Pandemic-Relief>
- Maintenance of Effort concerns
 - No extraordinary waivers are available for Maintenance of Effort (MOE) or Maintenance of Fiscal Supports (MFS)

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- Handout - Strategies for Using American Rescue Plan Funding from DOE
 - Practical and strategic options for utilizing relief funding
 - Link: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/lost-instructional-time.pdf>
- Handout - Factsheet on the ED & Labor Committee from US House of Representatives
 - Summary of what the Ed & Labor Committee has proposed including education, childcare and pre-K services
- Questions:
 - Can ESSER funds be used for buildings to be modernized to make wheel chair accessible? Dean – by the next SEAC meeting we will know if this would be allowed. Laura – we do not oversee the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) but the district should have an ADA coordinator and you can also contact Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) website <https://www.kasb.org/>

Proposed Changes to the SIMR and Indicator 17 (SSIP)

Kerry Haag – slide ppt

- Indicator 17 the State Systemic Improvement Plan measures students with disabilities reading level
 - Focus on measuring implementation that occurs within districts
 - Baseline data is aligned with the State Identified Measurable Result (SIMR)
 - Changes to Indicator 17 for 2020-2025
 - Proposed Revision to SIMR Measurement
 - Fastbridge now has rate of improvement calculated
 - Covid-19 Impacts
 - FFY 2020 no data because of shift to remote instruction
 - Targets will be reset next year after FFY 2021 data is gathered in February
 - New districts will be identified for a 5-year cohort and they agree to share data so these analyses can occur
 - Question - How do we measure students who are not readers, non-verbal students? Kerry – depends on how their progress is currently being monitored. Our goal is to make sure those students are being assessed.

KSDE Updates

Bert Moore

- We are beginning our first year of DMS monitoring from OSEP
 - First year is the self-assessment process
 - Second year is onsite visits of large, medium and small districts
- Two Board members asked if SEAC has any legislative items that need addressing, Bert gave them the following:
 - The Future Teachers of America program initiated at the high school level to support scholarships for high school students and receive tuition free/book free

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- reimbursement to become teachers.
 - The students who turn twenty-two this year and went without services during remote learning still need to work on their transition program and their 18-21 program objectives would be eligible for an extra year in the form of compensatory education.
- Remote Learning Questions
 - HB 2134 limits remote learning to 40 hrs. per student
 - Link FAQ sheet on remote learning
<https://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/Auditing/FAQs%20-%20Limiting%20Remote%20Learning%202021-22.pdf?ver=2021-08-27-101227-117>
 - Superintendents zoom meetings will be held twice per month
- Special education directors have asked for expertise in how to build inner local incorporated budgets
- Home based instruction provided for in an IEP overrides this Kansas legislation and so will not count towards remote learning bill but will still need local board approval.
- Question – Have we received any feedback on the transition document that SEAC produced last year? The feedback has been good and a transition coordinating council has been formed and working with the National Transition TA Center and James Sinclair is contracted to support as a facilitator, and Families Together has been included. The council has added Shawn Swindler from University of Kansas and Stacy Clarkson from Greenbush. SEAC will receive updates once this new council has formalized its processes.

Council Ex-Officio Member Updates

- **Families Together** – Bert for Lesli
 - There is still time to register for the Families Together statewide conference and watch all the recorded sessions <https://famielstogetherinc.org/2021twcl/> available through September 26th.
- **Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators (KASEA)** – Heath Peine and Ashley Enz
 - Heath is now the KASEA liaison committee chair and introduced Ashley Enz will be the KASEA liaison for SEAC.
 - Ashley – shared KASEA doc that contains contact and important information on KASEA: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1luf0j43wYF9r0m-5gklUTcoxjkYQj4E_b8NdHQsx5vg/edit
 - 8 regions represented and they meet monthly help disseminate information
 - Updates –
 - Legislative committee – several members participated in special education summit in the summer held by the Council of Exceptional Children. The main topics presented to legislators:

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- Special education funding
 - Fully funding IDEA
 - Addressing the educator shortage
 - Providing mental health supports in schools
- **Disability Rights Center – Mike Burgess**
 - Updating the DRC website, new resource center including a new resource center that has a special education guide and we partnered with Families Together to complete the guide: <https://www.drckansas.org/>
 - Continuing to work with legislature moving the bill to increase SSI for individuals with disabilities. Business have financial concerns and so DRC is working to address those concerns.
 - Stacie Martin, KSDE, is on State Rehabilitation Council, which is an advisory for vocational rehabilitation services and they are looking for new members. The meetings are held quarterly. If you know of someone with a disability or a special education director or teacher who would be a good representative please have them contact Mike Burgess or Stacie Martin.
- **Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) Update – Bert**
 - The Kansas State Board of Education (KSBOE) did review legislative priorities and will continue to address them in the next meeting.
 - Passed KESA regulations this week for systems accreditation
 - KSBOE meeting dates and materials can be found here: <https://www.ksde.org/Board/Kansas-State-Board-of-Education/Agendas-Meeting-Dates-and-Minutes/2021-Meeting-Materials-Minutes>

Other Updates:

Special Education Advisory Council Meeting Dates 2021-2022

November 17, 2021

9AM – 3 PM

Zoom Meeting

January 12, 2022

1-4 PM

TBD

January 13, 2021

7:30 AM – 3:00 PM

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TBD

April 14, 2022

9 AM – 3 PM

TBD

Closing Comments

Bert -

Thank you all for volunteering your time and serving on this council.

Items for Next meeting

- Contact Jennifer or Bert or Kelli with any new items

Action:

Motion to Adjourn: Heath Peine

Motion seconded: Tobias Wood

Meeting adjourned: at 2:58 pm

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