

Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

Vision

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for a unitary education system that achieves excellence, equity, and life long learning for all individuals in Kansas.

Mission Statement

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.

Belief Statements

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to life long learning through the following belief statements. We believe:

- 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.

Membership Responsibilities

Federal Regulations § 300.168

In accordance with Part B, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, each state is required to establish and maintain a State advisory panel on the education of children with disabilities.

The State advisory panel shall—

1. Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
3. Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act;
4. Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
5. Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities, including advising on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons. The advisory panel also shall advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.
6. Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with exceptionalities, including gifted.

One of the major functions of the Advisory Council is to serve as a liaison between the statewide populace and the Kansas State Board of Education. Citizens of Kansas are encouraged to communicate with the Council. This may be accomplished through contact with any Council member or the Secretary of the Council. Local education agency personnel, school patrons, students, lay community persons, private sector, public and private agencies, and educators at all levels are encouraged to submit relevant issues, questions and problems to the Council for consideration and action.

Public Comment

Members of the public are welcomed to address the State Advisory Council for Special Education (SEAC) on relevant topics. Public comments will be scheduled at a designated time, during regularly scheduled meetings. Persons who wish to comment will be asked to share their name, organization, and topic. With prior agreement of the Chairperson, a statement may be executed beyond three minutes. The members of the Council will take comments under consideration. Should public comments indicate the need for a Council response or action, members will take comments under consideration and an official response will be made at a later time. Written materials may be submitted at any time to the SEAC Secretary, Special Education & Title Services, Kansas State Department of Education, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 620, Topeka, KS 66612, or email klove@ksde.org

Council Membership

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is composed of no more than twenty-one individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with exceptionalities and the state administrator of special education services. A majority of the members of the council shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

SEAC Members 2023 – 2024

Tobias Wood (Chair) Board of Regents
twood@ksbor.org

*Dr. Marvin Miller (Chair-Elect) Parent of a child with a disability
mjmillr@abiliityed.com

*Jennifer King (Past Chair) Public Charter Schools
jking7@usd259.net

*Brooke Moore, Institution of Higher Education
Brooke.moore@fhsu.edu

*Whitney George, General Education Teacher
whitneyg@usd383.org

*Lena Kisner, Administrator of program for Exceptional Children
lkisner@rcec610.com

*Paul Buck, Individual with Disability
paul@paulbucklaw.com

*Dr. Troy Pitsch, Local Education Official
troy.pitsch@kckps.org

*Jose M. Comejo, State Agency services to Exceptional Children
jcomejo@usd497.org

*Chris Reffett, Private School Representative
creffett@sieagles.com

*Rebecca Shultz, Individual with a Disability
rebeccaschultz@smsd.org

*Jennifer Kucinski, Kansas State School for the Deaf and the Blind
jucinski@kssdb.org

*Jessica Lopez, Special Education Teacher
Jdlopez1413@gmail.com

*Sabrina Rishel, Parent of Gifted Child
srishel@gckschools.com

Jennifer Kurth, Associate Professor of Special Education
jkurth@ku.edu

Brandon Gay, State Corrections Agency- Adult
brandon.gay@colbycc.edu

*Charity Porter, Transition services to children with Disabilities
cporter@dreamcatcherscm.com

*Barney Pontious, Parent of a child with a disability
bpontious@usd101.com

Lindsey Graf, Administrator of Program for Exceptional Children
lgraf@usd244ks.org

SEAC Members (Ex-Officio)

Mike Burgess, Disability Rights Center
mike@drckansas.org

Sherri Schwanz, Kansas National Education Association
sherri.schwanz@knea.org

Lesli Girard, Parent Training and Information Center
lesli@familiesogetherinc.org

Jim McNiece, State Board Member
jmcniece@ksde.org

Ashely Enz, Special Education Coordinator
aenz@olatheschools.org

Jon Harding, Kansas State School for the Blind
jharding@kssdb.org

Luanne Barron, Kansas State School for the Deaf
lbarron@kssdb.org

2023-2024 Meeting Schedule

July 27, 2023 - Wichita

September 28, 2023

November 30, 2023

January 9-10, 2024

April 11, 2024

Visit the SEAC website at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=561>

Tobias Wood (Chairperson):

twood@ksbor.org

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC)

2023-2024

*Dedicated to the Education of
"ALL"*

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=561>



**Kansas State Department
of Education
Special Education & Title Services Team
Bert Moore, Director**

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Council Contact: Kayla Love
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