

KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Dedicated to the Education of
"ALL"*



Annual Report **July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009**

Special Education Services
Kansas State Department of Education
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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 2008 – 2009 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 2008 – 2009 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 (2008 – 2009)

Annual Report

Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Introduction

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has met for six one or two-day meetings during the 2008 – 2009 school year.

It is anticipated that the SEAC Action Plan priority areas for 2009 – 2010 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 (2008-09 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 State Board of Education is to ensure that all students meet or exceed high academic standards and are prepared for their next steps (e.g., the world of work and/or post-secondary education).

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 2008-09 SEAC is composed of eighteen 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 2008-2009 membership include:

State Advisory Council for Special Education

FY 2008-09

Council Member	Address	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
Luanne Barron	Kansas School for the Deaf 450 E Park Street Olathe KS 66061 913-791-0513 text: 913 375 0477 lbarron@ksd.state.ks.us	State Official *	3	June 2011 (1 st term)
Kendra Bittner	1837 S Osage Drive Ottawa, KS 66067 785-242-8011 cell: 785-214-1778 kendrabittner@sbcglobal.net	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	3	June 2009 (1 st term)
Susan Clayton	PO Box 86 Mullinville, KS 67109 620-548-2520 cell: 620-255-6172 ronandsusanc@yahoo.com	Public Charter Schools*	7	June 2011 (2 nd term)
Dr. Ann Elliott	USD 437 Auburn-Washburn 5928 SW 53 rd Topeka, KS 66610-9451 785-339-4000 cell: 785-633-2316 ellioann@usd437.net	Administrator of Exceptional Programs	4	June 2011 (1 st term)
Janice Frahm	1553 County Road T Colby, KS 67701 785-462-7388 cell: 620-779-2884 jfracm@st-tel.net	LEA Official *	5	June 2009 (1 st term)
Lesli Girard	Families Together, Inc. 501 SW Jackson Suite 400 Topeka, KS 66603 785-233-4777 cell: 785-608-7455 lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org	Parent Training Center	4	June 2009 (1 st term)
Neil Guthrie (<i>past Chair</i>)	201 N Water Wichita KS 67202 316-973-4425 cell: 316-258-4889 nguthrie@usd259.net	Local Education Official	8 & 10	June 2010 (2 nd term)
Mary Lou Heller	502 North Pine Beloit KS 67420 785-738-3352 cell: 785-569-7127 kitsjamjarr@nckcn.com	Teacher *	5	June 2009 (1 st term)
Penny Hoffman	823 West 5 th St. Larned, KS 67550 620-285-7364 phoffman@usd495.k12.ks.us	Juvenile Justice	5	June 2011 (1 st term)

Council Member	Address	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
Katherine Kersnbrock-Ostmeyer	NW ESC 703 West Second Oakley, KS 67748 785-672-3125 cell: 785-443-2479 kko@nkesc.org	Vocational, community or business organization concerned with provision of transition services *	5	June 2010 (1 st term)
Karen Kroh	Archdiocese of KCKCS 12615 Parallel Parkway Kansas City KS 66109 913-721-1570 cell: 913-669-1357 kkroh@archkckcs.org	Private Schools	1	June 2010 (Partial term)
Larry Meyer (Chair)	SEKESC PO Box 19227 Topeka KS 66619 785-862-7840 cell: 620-724-3545 larry.meyer@greenbush.org	Other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children	4	June 2011 (2 nd term)
Dale Rawson	1108 Alleghaney St Apt. H Burlington, KS 66839 620-364-5151 cell: 620-364-9145 drawing@usd244ks.org	Parent of a child or person with a disability *	9	June 2011 (1 st term)
Anne Roberts	KVC Behavioral Healthcare Inc. 21350 W 153 rd St Olathe, KS 66061 913-322-4900 x 4902 cell: 816-550-4596 aroberts@kvc.org	Foster Care Agency	3	June 2011 (1 st term)
Vicki Sharp	5209 W 68th Prairie Village, KS 66208 cell: 913-634-5330 vlsharp@kc.rr.com	Parent of a Child - with Giftedness *	2	June 2011 (1 st term)
Sean Smith (Chair-elect)	University of Kansas 1122 W Campus Road JRP 538 Lawrence, KS 66045 785-331-2974 cell: 785 979 6517 seanj@ku.edu	IHE Special Education *	4	June 2009 (1 st term)
SueAnn Wanklyn	1461 20 th Road Frankfort KS 66427 Cell: 785-799-4531 swanklyn@yahoo.com	Parent of a child or person with a disability *	6	June 2011 (1 st term)

* These representatives fulfill the majority requirement; persons who are individuals with a disability or parent of children with a disability and who may represent another required area.

Secretary to SEAC: Colleen Riley, Director of Special Education, Student Support Services, KSDE – criley@ksde.org or (785)291-3097

Administrative Support to SEAC: Deb Burns, Special Education Services, KSDE dburns@ksde.org or (785)291-3097

Council Leadership

The officers for the 2008-2009 year were: Chair, Larry Meyer; Vice-Chair, Sean Smith. They were unanimously elected to fulfill the obligations of these positions at the April 2008 council meeting.

The 2008-2009 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 to provide position papers or recommendations in the following areas of interest. Copies of those responses are contained in Appendix B of this report.

- Seclusion

Operational Standards

The SEAC's 2008-2009 meeting schedule was as follows:

Meeting Date	Location
July 23 '08	Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita KS
September 10 '08	KSDE, Topeka KS
November 20 '08	KSDE, Topeka KS
January 13-14 '09	KSDE, Topeka KS
February 11 '09	KSDE, Topeka KS
April 8 '09	KSDE, Topeka KS

The Council must conduct a minimum of four (4) regular, one-day meetings. The 2008-2009 year exceeded this standard by holding six 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 three occasions that this portion of the meeting was filled this year.

Council Accomplishments

Appendix A provides a summary of the activities completed for the 2008-2009 school year by Priority and Action Area.

Appendix A

2008-2009 SEAC Action Plan

**Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Action Plan
2008-2009**

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"> • SpEd Parent Survey • On-line public comment forum • Families Together, Inc. 	<p>2/09 Members were provided an overview of proposed changes to the State Regulations for Parent Revocation of Consent</p> <p>11/08 Members were provided a copy of the Guide to Special Education, a resource for parents</p>	Members provided feedback
1.2 Develop recommendations and suggested solutions for unmet needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTSS • Seclusion/Restraint 	<p>4/09 Members were provided an overview of the role of Special Education within MTSS and ways to support accountability</p> <p>9/08</p>	Member questions were answers

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>Members attended the MTSS Symposium held in Wichita, KS.</p> <p>Members were provided an overview of the (MTSS).</p> <p>7/08 Members received an update of current activities and initiatives around MTSS</p>	Members will receive future updates

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"> • state and federal web sites • State & Federal Regulations • Deaf Education Guidelines • Autism Guidelines • Seclusion Guidelines & data 	<p>4/09 Members were updated on HB 2199 2009 Dyslexia Statute</p> <p>2/09: Members received an overview of the proposed state reg. changes to Parental Revocation of Consent.</p> <p>Members were provided a brief summary of current Kansas House Bill hearings</p> <p>11/08 Members received an overview of communications resulting from the Pre-K Pilot and other Early Childhood projects</p>	<p>Members discussed</p> <p>Members provided input</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>Members were solicited for participation in a stakeholders group that will review and update the current Best Practices to Gifted Education Guideline</p> <p>Members received an update of the LEPC Committee on Autism Task Force</p> <p>9/08 Members received an overview of the Early Childhood Unit (EC) projects, and Early Childhood Outcomes Indicators 7 & 12</p> <p>7/08 Members were provided an overview of Kansas seclusion data</p>	<p>Members suggested a timeline of ages document be provided by EC unit, and asked about LRE & parent access in-home services to preschoolers (age 3-5)</p>
<p>2.2 Increase awareness and visibility of SEAC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochure • Public meetings • KSDE presentation to superintendents & State Board 	<p>1/09 Member Neil Guthrie presented the 2007-08 SEAC annual report to the State Board</p> <p>7/08 Members received a report on issues being reviewed by the Governor’s Special Education Funding Task Force, of which Council member Neil Guthrie serves.</p> <p>Member Larry Meyer presented an historical overview of seclusion</p>	<p>Members will respond to any future requests by the KSBE for information or opinion.</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>and the data in Kansas to the State Board.</p> <p>Members attended the KSDE Annual Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS.</p> <p>9/08 Members attended the MTSS Symposium held in Wichita, KS.</p> <p>Members Larry Meyer and Neil Guthrie provided presentations on Indicators 9 & 10 (Disproportionality), and Secondary Transition at the OSEP Annual Leadership Conference and the National Accountability Conference in DC.</p>	
<p>2.3 Monitor and disseminate data related to placement, LRE, and IEP quality and recommend improvement strategies to the SEA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPP/APR data • LRE data by district, trend data • IEP File Review data • IEP training materials • EC LRE data 	<p>4/09 Members were informed on district status reports have been uploaded to the KSDE website reporting on 14 indicators</p> <p>2/09 Members were provided an overview of the APR for 2007 that was submitted to OSEP on Feb. 1 '09, explaining indicator targets</p> <p>11/08 Members reviewed proposed</p>	<p>Members provided feedback on</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>targets set for Indicator 2, 4A, and 14.</p> <p>Members received an overview of communications resulting from the Pre-K Pilot and other Early Childhood projects</p> <p>9/08 Members reviewed the SPP/APR data collection timeline.</p>	target sets

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 & students with disabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data for SPP indicators • Data & review of due process hearings, mediation & formal complaints • KS Integrated Accountability System data (KIAS) • File review data • 618 data 	<p>4/09 Members were provided an overview of the role of Special Education within MTSS and ways to support accountability</p> <p>Members received an overview of training provided to SES staff on federal funding</p>	<p>Member questions were answered. A motion was made and approved by members that a sub-committee of stakeholders be formed to study integrated accountability for all state and federal programs, and ways to assist districts in consolidating funds in order to provide supports for students.</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>Members received a report on Federal Stimulus funds that will be sent to KSDE to flow-thru directly to districts</p> <p>2/09 Members received an update on the KIAS process which included data collection, verification, compliance of noncompliance.</p> <p>Members received information about an upcoming federal monitoring visit by OSEP focusing on fiscal accountability and general supervision systems.</p> <p>Members received an overview of the process involved in KSDE's application for federal VI-B LEA funds: 3-21 funds; Section 619 funds</p> <p>11/08 Members received an overview of Special Education Law – court cases - from a parent perspective</p> <p>Members were provided a FAQ document that addresses frequent questions concerning consent, IEP teams, and formal complaint procedures.</p> <p>7/08</p>	<p>Members provided feedback on feedback district Rewards & Enforcement</p> <p>Members will received an update</p> <p>Members will review various accountability reports on a timely basis</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>Members received an overview of changes to the Integrated Accountability System</p> <p>Members received an overview of assessing & meeting the needs of gifted students in Kansas.</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data for SPP/APR indicators • Public meetings • KSDE workshops 	<p>4/09 Members were informed on district status reports have been uploaded to the KSDE website reporting on 14 indicators</p> <p>2/09 Members were provided an overview of the APR for 2007 that was submitted to OSEP on Feb. 1 '09, explaining indicator targets</p> <p>11/08 Members reviewed proposed targets set for Indicator 2, 4A, and 14.</p> <p>Members received an overview of communications resulting from the Pre-K Pilot and other Early Childhood projects</p> <p>9/08 Members reviewed the SPP/APR data collection timeline.</p> <p>7/08 Members received a report on the current year level of determinations sent</p>	

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>to LEAs.</p> <p>Member Larry Meyer provided an historic overview and data reported by LEAs on seclusion.</p>	
<p>3.3 Analyze the data on the educational progress of students with exceptionalities and make recommendations to enhance their educational program, services, and achievement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AYP results • State assessment data • Suspension/expulsion data • Graduation/drop-out rates • EC achievement • Post-secondary outcomes • Transition data (TOPS) • APR/SPP • File Review • Seclusion Data 	<p>2/09 Members were provided copies of the Kansas Education Summary, a snapshot of Kansas data.</p> <p>Members received the KS Autism Task Force Report to the 2009 KS Legislature</p> <p>7/08 Member Larry Meyer provided an historic overview of seclusion and the data reported by LEAs.</p>	<p>Members discussed & provided feedback</p>
<p>3.4 As stakeholders, assist in the interpretation of Kansas data in reporting to the public and federal government.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APR & SPP • District Status Reports 	<p>4/09 Members were informed on district status reports have been uploaded to the KSDE website reporting on 14 indicators</p> <p>2/09 Members were provided an overview of the APR for 2007 that was submitted to OSEP on Feb. 1 '09, explaining indicator targets</p> <p>11/08 Members reviewed proposed targets set for Indicator 2, 4A, and 14.</p>	<p>Members provided feedback on</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<p>Members received an overview of communications resulting from the Pre-K Pilot and other Early Childhood projects</p> <p>9/08 Members reviewed the SPP/APR data collection timeline.</p>	target sets

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"> • Personnel reports • SPDG • Teacher Licensure Summit 	<p>4/09 Members received an overview of the Teacher Preparation Taskforce</p> <p>2/09 Members received information concerned with the need for changes to IHE & Personnel/Teacher Preparation</p> <p>1/09 Members were presented the report <i>Attrition of Special Education Personnel in Kansas for the School Years of 2006-07 to 2007-08</i></p> <p>11/08 Members received an update on current issues around teacher licensure</p> <p>9/08 Members received an update on State Professional Development Grant (SPDG) on the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support Project (SPBS)</p>	<p>Members discussed</p> <p>Members discussed & provided feedback</p> <p>A motion was passed asking KSDE to provide resources to drill down this report into a variety of subsets</p> <p>Members were invited to participate in Professional Standards Board meetings.</p>
<p>4.2 Ascertain supply & diversity of Special Education personnel available to all geographic areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel reports 		

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"> • Parent survey for SPP Indicator 8 • Families Together, Inc. 	<p>2/09 Members were provided an overview of Families Together, Inc. mission</p> <p>9/09 Members received an overview of the Kansas Statewide Technical Assistance Resource System (KSTARS) Projects</p>	
<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"> • KSDE multi-tiered model for statewide use (MTSS) 	<p>4/09 Members were provided an overview of the role of Special Education within MTSS and ways to support accountability</p> <p>9/08 Members attended the MTSS Symposium held in Wichita, KS.</p> <p>Members were provided an overview of the (MTSS).</p> <p>7/08 Members received an update of current activities and initiatives around MTSS</p>	<p>Member questions were answers</p> <p>Members will receive future updates</p>

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
5.3 Review & acknowledge blended programs including mental health issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRS • Juvenile Justice • Mental Health Agency • DRC • KPIRC 	2/09 Members received an overview of KVC Behavioral Health Care – a foster care agency.	

Appendix B

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

**Kansas Special Education
Seclusion Report
and Recommendations
2007-2008**

Special Education Advisory Council
August, 2008

Definition

(g) "Seclusion room" means a room or other confined area in which a child with a disability is placed in isolation from other persons for a limited time as a behavior intervention strategy and from which the student is prevented from having egress.

When is seclusion used?

On a continuum of interventions, seclusion may be utilized as a behavior intervention strategy for special education students demonstrating the most significant and challenging behaviors. It is only used in the most extreme situations.

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.

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 1st Quarter Seclusion Reporting begins. Schools report seclusion data again for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarters

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.

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

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

Challenges for Data Collection 1st 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.)

2nd Quarter

Response fields were revised for the 2nd 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

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

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

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.

Recommendations

Continue review of special education discipline data *annually* with the Special Education Advisory Board (SEAC)

Revise seclusion reporting requirement from quarterly to an annual collection at the end of each school year

Improve reporting accuracy and ensure accountability by collecting seclusion data through KAN-DIS (Kansas Discipline Information System) currently used to collect school data for Safe and Drug Free Schools, NCLB, and IDEA for the 2008-2009 school year

Kansas Special Education Seclusion Report and Recommendations 2007-2008

Special Education Advisory Council
August, 2008