

**Louisiana Department of Education
Report to the Developmental Disabilities Council - April 2023**

Special Education Advisory Panel New Member Application

The Department has received applications for membership on the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP). Applications opened in March and closed April 14 for the following roles:

- Parent of a child with a disability (birth to 26)
- Individual with a disability
- Higher education institution representative who prepares special educators or service providers
- State juvenile corrections or adult corrections agency representative
- private school representative
- Teacher
- Administrator of a program for students with disabilities

SEAP Panel members each serve 3 year terms, and appointments are staggered so that 1/3 of membership rotates off at the end of each year. Members serve no more than 2 consecutive terms and must reapply at the end of their term.

SEAP will convene next on June 21, 2023-2024 meeting dates have also been set and are as follows:

Meeting Date
September 20, 2023
November 15, 2023
January 24, 2024
March 20, 2024
June 19, 2024

Related Services Advisory Commission Update

The RSAC is established in accordance with SCR 31 (2022) to study the level of supports statewide for students with disabilities and exceptionalities through an examination of the ratio of service providers to students and the impact on service implementation. At the March BESE meeting, BESE approved the legislative report from the commission that provides an update on research and activities to date.

Timeline	Action
September 7, 2022	Organizational Meeting

December 7, 2022	Meeting 2
February 15, 2023	Meeting 3
March 2023	Legislative Report
April 26, 2023	Meeting 4
September 13, 2023	Meeting 5
December 6, 2023	Meeting 6
March 2024	Legislative Report

ELA Curriculum Materials to Support Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities

Dr. Miley is working alongside Teacher Leader Advisors with special education experience to create companion resources for ELA Guidebooks for SWSCD in grades 3-5. The units have been submitted and are currently in the revision process.

IDEA Budget Stakeholder Input

The Department is currently in the public comment period of the draft of our IDEA budget application for FFY23. We received 343 responses to our stakeholder survey. The grant application requires states to outline how state-level set aside funds will be spent in 15 different categories. To date, the final allocations each state will receive has not yet been released. OSEP has advised states to prepare the application using allocations from the FFY22 application, and upon receipt of the allocation tables, to insert the most updated information with the application and repost during the public participation timeline. The dollar amounts shown in the Description of Activities may change based on the total allocation received from the federal government. The Department will update this document, along with other application documents, when allocations are received.

2023 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey

Each year the Department surveys parents of children with disabilities who receive special education services. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback on how well schools help to involve parents in the education of their children. We use this information to guide our efforts to improve services and results for children with disabilities and enhance family involvement. The 2023 Special Education Parent Involvement Survey is now available.

The Department uses a sampling method to collect this information. Each year, we select school systems to participate in the survey. Parents in the selected school systems should receive information to participate in the survey from their child's school. The survey will be available until June 30.

SPED Fellows Academy: Cohort 4

SPED Fellow Academy is a year-long, comprehensive development program for novice special education leaders across the state. The fellowship provides in-person training, coaching and mentoring and a community of practice that will instill the knowledge and skills that the next generation of leaders need to lead and sustain change to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. The fourth cohort will run in 2023-2024. LDOE has received applications and will begin the selection phase in April and May.

Local Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report Collection

The Department has launched a collection survey for local school systems to submit a link to their annual 2022-2023 SEAC report to the Department. This collection will continue through May per legislation and a report will be provided to SEAP in June and posted on the Department's website.

Special Education Director Summer Collaborative

During the annual Teacher Leader Summit in May, the Department will host a special one-day event for all Special Education Directors in the state. Directors will engage in learning around instructional best practice and collaborate with colleagues from across the state. Outside of the one-day collaborative, Directors will be able to take advantage of over 50 additional sessions at Teacher Leader Summit geared toward building capacity of educators and administrators to support improving outcomes for students with disabilities.