

Report to Developmental Disabilities Council

October 2024

SEAP Update

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) met in September. Topics of discussion included updates to the parent handbook, the 2023-2024 Local SEAC Report, and revisions to Bulletin 1530 regarding alternate assessment participation.

SEAP Meeting Dates
November 12, 2024
January 22, 2025
March 26, 2025
June 18, 2025

Local Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report Collection

Pursuant to R.S. 17:1944.1, local school systems are required to post their annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) report on their local website, and local school systems are required to submit their report annually to the Department each May. The Department compiled local special education advisory council reports from Local Education Agencies for the 2023-2024 school year. The [annual report](#) has been posted publicly and was shared at the September SEAP meeting. Additionally, new requirements from Act 198 requiring specific information be shared in these reports has been shared with special education directors in preparation for the new requirements to be added to reports this year.

Young Children with Disabilities Professional Development Grant

The Young Children with Disabilities Professional Development Grant (PDG) work surrounding developmental screening launched on October 1, 2024, with a virtual meeting that included all Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies. This grant will support child care sites with their developmental screening processes to include screening and referral of young children from ages birth to five. Each CCR&R will work with 4 high-performing child care sites throughout the grant period. They will conduct a

series of on-site visits and collect data to provide coaching to improve the experiences of young children with disabilities and identify children early and accurately.

High Cost Services

The High Cost Services (HCS) fund supports school systems and schools that serve Louisiana's students with the most significant needs by providing additional funding for high cost special education services. This grant provides additional funding for high-cost special education services for students with disabilities and is funded through the state's IDEA set aside allocation and Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) formula. The 2024-2025 HCS application opened this month and we hosted a webinar for school systems to overview the opportunity.

AEM Conference

The Louisiana Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Center is hosting its annual fall conference, "Fall Into AAC," focused on providing professional development anchored in evidence-based practices, enabling student access to grade-level content by implementing Universal Design for Learning, and utilizing the accessibility features of assistive technology. This year's conference will include two locations, one in Baton Rouge and one in Ruston.

SPED Fellow Academy Cohort 4

The Department is launching year 4 of our SPED Fellow Academy for special education supervisors and directors who lead special education in their school systems. Cohort 4 of the SPED Fellow Academy is beginning this month and includes 22 current directors or supervisors. These individuals will participate in a year-long sequence of learning, receive mentoring, and complete an executive learning project intended to help solve a system level challenge in their school system.

Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET)

The Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Grant is a competitive federally funded program that supports state agencies in developing a cohesive transition system that facilitates partnerships between state vocational rehabilitation agencies, state and local educational agencies, and centers for independent living to ensure individuals with disabilities seamlessly and successfully transition to life after high school. The Department was the recipient of 10 million dollars over 5 years, and with these funds, the Louisiana Center for Effective Transitions (LCET) was formed to support transitions for students with disabilities in Louisiana. The Department is excited that these transition efforts are underway. Recently, LCET launched its first workgroup meeting with a diverse group of individuals, including youth and adults with disabilities, private sector employees, policymakers, educators, administrators, family members of children and youth with disabilities, and representatives from disability advocacy organizations and related agencies.

Two Opportunities Aimed At Providing Additional Supports to Students

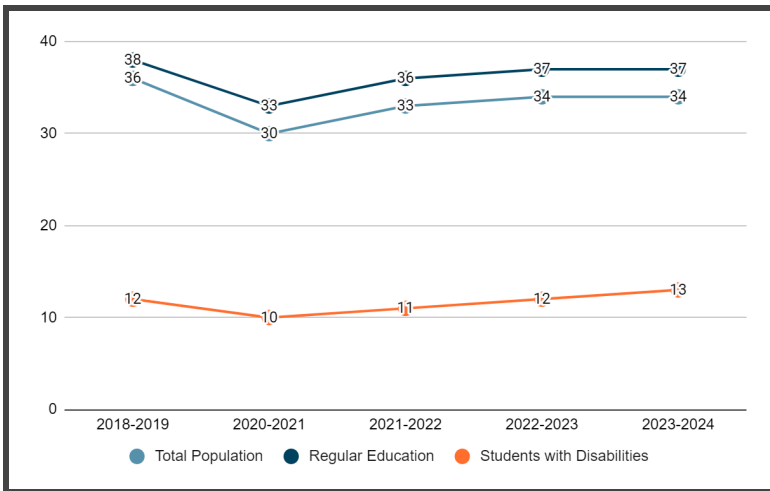
The Steve Carter Tutoring Program provides \$1,500 vouchers to families of eligible K-12 public school students. The digital vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy and math tutoring. Now in its second year of existence, the program previously offered \$1,000 digital vouchers, was limited to K-5 public school students, and only included literacy.

Families can register or learn more on the [online portal](#) or by visiting tutor.la.gov. Eligible families will select a high-quality tutoring provider through the parent portal. All tutors have been approved by the Department. Tutoring options are available virtually or in-person.

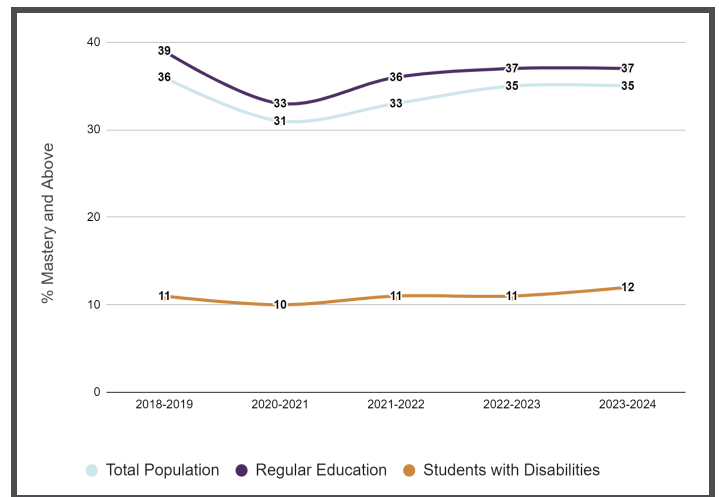
The Steve Carter Tutoring Program is part of Louisiana’s statewide tutoring initiative, which includes high-quality tutoring options for students during the school day and outside of the school day. While the Steve Carter program provides options outside the school day, Louisiana’s new Accelerate: High-Dosage Tutoring program provides additional support to K-5 students during the school day.

Accelerate High-Dosage Tutoring offers high-dosage tutoring for eligible students in grades K-5. School systems can choose approved providers for this initiative and will engage directly with providers to offer tutoring services.

LEAP Mastery Grades 3-8



LEAP Mastery Grades 3-8 % HS



*In 2023-2024, there was no social studies assessment, so this chart removes social studies from previous years as well, which shifted percentages previously shared.