

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL (SEAP)



*Raising the Standards Conference
April 11, 2024
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SEAP State Liaison*

PURPOSE OF THE PANEL

To provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA)

- § IDEA 300.167 - State Advisory Panel - The State must establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

FUNCTION OF THE PANEL

The function of the Panel is to advise the State Education Agency (SEA) in multiple facets.

ADVISORY vs. Advocacy

Role of Panel

- To give advice
- To inform
- To counsel
- To recommend
- To suggest
- To guide

Advisory vs. ADVOCACY

Advisory is not...

- Taking sides
- Pleading a case
- Favoring a position
- Arguing
- Having a “my way” mindset

PANEL FUNCTIONS (IDEA)

- **Advise** the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children and youth with disabilities. (300.169(a))
- **Comment publicly** on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. (300.169(b))
- **Advise** the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under 618. (300.169(c))
- **Advise** the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports. (300.169(d))
- **Advise** the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. (300.169(e))
- Waiver of nonsupplant requirement. *State must consult with the Advisory Panel regarding provisions of FAPE.* (300.164(c)(4))
- **Provide advice** to the SEA in determining the risk ratio threshold above which disproportionality is significant. (34 CFR 300.647)

RESPONSIBILITIES and PRIORITIES for MEMBERS of the PANEL

- Read and be familiar with the SEAP Bylaws
- Attend the meetings (virtual or in-person)
- Know and represent their **stakeholder** group
- Participate, engage and work as a team
- Support each other
- Make a difference

Representing a Stakeholder Group

One of the most significant contributions each Panel member makes is **representing their stakeholder group**. Federal regulations require that specific stakeholders be represented by membership on the Advisory Panel.

In that role, the Panel member is to provide advice to the SEA that results in change.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

Membership of the State Advisory Panel must consist of members appointed by the official authorized under state law to make these appointments.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IDEA)

- CFR § 300.168 - Membership
- Panel members must be appointed by the Alabama Governor or any other official authorized under state law to make these appointments.
- Panel members must be representative of the State population and composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children and youth with disabilities.
- CFR § 300.168 (b) - A majority of the members of the Panel **must** be individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

Parents of children with disabilities ages **birth through 26** and Individuals with disabilities*

Teachers,
Representatives of institutions of higher education

State and local education officials,
Administrators of programs for children with disabilities

State representatives from **Child Welfare responsible for foster care**

Representatives of other State agencies,
Representatives of private schools and public charter schools

One representative ...concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities

Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies

State and local officials that represent homeless children

***SPECIAL RULE:** 51% = the majority of the members of the Panel must be individuals with disabilities (IWDs) AND parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26.



Panel Membership

- Panel members serve a 3-year term. Members can serve two consecutive full 3-year terms.
- Attendance at meetings is required.
- Panel members serve without compensation, but the State must reimburse the Panel for reasonable and necessary expenses associated with attending meetings and performing duties.
- Panel members are encouraged to recruit and nominate members in order to fulfill vacancies.
- If a Panel member decides to resign, he or she must submit the request to the Chairperson in writing.



PANEL COMMITTEES

Executive Committee (Panel Officers, ALSDE member)

Membership Committee

Bylaws Committee

Stakeholder and Public Engagement Committee

Student Achievement and Performance Data Committee

PANEL OFFICERS

Chairperson (4 yr term)

- ✓ To preside at all meetings
- ✓ To be ex-officio of all committees
- ✓ To perform such duties as pertain to the office

Vice Chairperson (4 yr term)

- ✓ Serve as a surrogate for the Chair
- ✓ Uses Robert's Rules of Order
- ✓ Serves on the executive workgroup

Secretary

PANEL
OFFICERS
2023-2024

Chairperson

Dr. Graham Sisson, Jr.

Vice Chairperson

Lisa Balazs

Secretary

Staff from the ALSDE Special
Education Services

SEAP MEETINGS

Quarterly

Media Advisory

Methods

Agenda

Public Comment

Minutes



A grayscale photograph of a map with several black pushpins. A central yellow speech bubble contains the text 'LOCATION OF SEAP INFORMATION'. The map shows street names like 'MILCOT SQUARE' and 'ROAD'.

LOCATION OF SEAP
INFORMATION

THANK YOU

