

SEAP

Special Education Advisory Panel

2021-2022

Annual Report



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SEAP Purpose

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that each state establish and maintain an advisory panel for the *purpose of advising the state special education staff regarding the education of eligible students with disabilities*.

That includes advising the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) on the education of students with disabilities ages three to twenty-one who are educated through the use of public funds, including, but not limited to, children served in public schools, private schools, hospitals, prisons, and in the home.

For more information...

For more information on the SEAP responsibilities, membership, and operations see [Pennsylvania Special Education Advisory Panel Flyer](#)

For more information on the SEAP meeting dates, by-laws, agendas, and minutes see [here](#).

SEAP Responsibilities

SEAP has eight duties. Duties one through five are in accordance with 34 C.F.R. §300.169. Duties six through eight are added under Pennsylvania SEAP By-Laws. The SEAP advises the State Education Agency (The Pennsylvania Department of Education) on:

1. The unmet needs within the commonwealth as to the education of children with disabilities.
2. Any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities.
3. Developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act.
4. Developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports.
5. Developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.
6. Other issues as deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Director of the Bureau of Special Education (BSE), and the Director of the Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports (BEISFS) or their respective designees.

7. The education of eligible students with disabilities living in congregate care (i.e., Residential Treatment Facilities, adult prisons, youth detention facilities, psychiatric hospitals, medical facilities).
8. Any other activities or actions required by its governing statutes or regulations.

Summary of the SEAP Recommendations to Bureaus 2021-2022

Each year the SEAP develops a work plan and establishes committees to deeply study the SEAP's priorities. During 2021-2022, the SEAP approved the following committee recommendations to the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) and/or Bureau of Early Intervention Services and Family Supports (BEISFS).

Executive Committee Motion on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)

- Develop a document that will guide Individualized Education Program (IEP) Teams making educational placement decisions (including during transition to school age) for eligible young children or students with complex learning needs, low incidence disabilities, autism, and any other eligible young child or student being considered to receive ABA services.
- Develop a family-friendly document that specifically explains the educational placement considerations made by IEP Teams.
- Require the PaTTAN Autism Initiative to establish in their Technical Assistance (TA) Plan an intentional goal to ensure children are educated in the least restrictive environment (LRE); teaching of skills to support learning and participation in the context of everyday activities and learning experiences; and full access to the general education curriculum in all educational environments, unless determined by the IEP Team and detailed as part of an eligible young child or student's IEP.
- Develop, implement, and with ongoing SEAP input, monitor a pilot program with an intentional goal to reduce the restrictiveness of educational placements of eligible young children or students with complex learning needs, low incidence disabilities, autism, and any others being considered to receive ABA services.

Family Engagement

- Create a multilingual mobile app for school-age services.
- Create a more family friendly Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) website.
- Continue to partner with families to provide the family perspective at the PDE Annual “Making a Difference” Conference.

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

- Collect school-age placement data to determine to what extent the specialized setting of the preschool influences the inclusiveness of the kindergarten placement.
- Provide guidance to school teams and a “Tip Sheet” for family organizations on when to use the Framework for Access and Belonging (formerly called the Supplementary Aids and Services (SaS) Considerations Toolkit).
- Continue to provide and publicize information, trainings, focus, keynotes, and sessions on ableism in education, as well as the intersections of ableism and other prejudices.

Transition

- Develop an Assistive Technology (AT) and Alternative Communication (AAC) Consideration document and comprehensive resources to guide Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams to consider an array of assistive technology options to support students as a component of the Special Considerations portion of the IEP.
- Continue, support, and strengthen the interagency work across systems that intersect with secondary transition, through The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP).
- Collect data from Act 26, as well as the number of students that receive OVR services and secure Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) after graduation.

Mental Health

- Develop and distribute model reentry procedures/protocols including purposeful and meaningful dialogue for a reentry plan to be integrated in IEP planning and the IEP document.
- Support a Mental Health Committee member to participate in the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) advisory group and also in the OMHSAS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Task Force.

Crisis Intervention and Restraint Prevention/Elimination

- Create training materials for families (possibly a brochure or flyer) about restraint and what it looks like
- Create an app and continuing education on Trauma Informed Care. Request that BSE research and promote best practices for reduction of restraints in schools.
- Facilitate Committee input to BEISFS debriefing document for use following each restraint.
- Create a process or tool whereby the Restraint Information System of Collection (RISC) team will notify a school that has received three waivers for a single student that the school must have an IEP meeting for that student.
- Create a universal IEP waiver form to be used statewide.

Topics of Additional Recommendations

- Target setting and improvement activities on State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR);
- State Performance Plan Process to Solicit Stakeholder Input; and
- Act 66 of 2021, Student Grade Level Retainment Guidance.

2021-2022 Special Education Advisory Panel Members

SEAP is a requirement of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Public Law 105-17. The Law outlines the requirements for panel members and stipulates the various agencies and programs they are to represent. IDEA also requires that panel membership be comprised of more than 50 percent parents of students with disabilities. The members serve a three-year term. Following is the list of 2021-2022 members who advanced the recommendations summarized in this report.

Heidi Allen	Luz Hernandez	Diane Perry	Jane Swan
Cynthia Alvarez	Aaron loos	Lucille Piggott-Prawl	Cecelia Thompson
Gretchen Daugherty	Sharon Janosik	Kim Robinson	Edward Titterton
Maria Edelberg	Michele Jennings	Cathy Roccia-Meier	Alicia Tyler
Amy Fisher	Joe Kleppick	Perri Rosen	Ned Whitehead
Lisa Fulton	Timothy Krushinski	Robert Savakinus	Erin Weierbach
Naomi Galman	Carmen Medina	Gina Scala	
Lisa Gaylor	Regina Speaker	Rachel Schlosser	
Chris Grandy	Palubinsky	Klarissa Spencer	

Current SEAP panel members are listed on the [SEAP webpage](#).

For more information

- SEAP Meeting Schedule and Public Attendance - <https://tinyurl.com/SEAPinPA>
- [2021-2022 Full Annual Report](#)
- [Pennsylvania Special Education Advisory Panel Flyer](#)

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Tom Wolf, Governor

