



SUFFOLK
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Annual Report

School Year 2023-2024

With School Year 2024-2025 Updates

Presented by:

Kirstyn Oneill, SEAC Chair

Suffolk Public Schools

#SPSCreatesAchievers



Purpose

The Special Education Advisory Committee is a regulatory committee that functions in accordance with Sections 300.650–300.653, Rules and Regulations for the administration of Public Law 105–17.

The Committee's functions are as follows:

- To advise the Suffolk Public Schools of needs in the education of children with disabilities;
- To participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;
- To submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the Suffolk Public Schools' superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
- To assist the Suffolk Public Schools in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
- To review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board;
- To participate in the review of the Suffolk Public Schools' annual plan, prior to the submission to the School Board.



Membership

- **Membership is approved by the School Board**
- **Comprised of representatives of stakeholder groups that have a common interest in meeting the educational needs of students with disabilities**
 - **Majority are parents of students with disabilities or individuals with disabilities**
 - **Community service providers**
 - **One Suffolk Public Schools teacher as required by**
Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia
- **The Director of Special Education and other Suffolk Public Schools staff may serve as consultants to the committee.**



Membership 23/24

Voting Members

- Chair – Kirstyn Oneill
- Vice Chair – Stephanie Whitley
- Secretary –Christy Cole
- Teacher – Holly Boyce
- Sierrah Chavis



Membership 24/25

Voting Members

- **Chair**
Nansemond Borough - Kirstyn O'neill
 - **Vice Chair**
Chuckatuck Borough - Stephanie Whitley
 - **Secretary**
Holy Neck Borough - Christy Cole
 - Suffolk Borough - Sierrah Chavis
 - Cypress Borough - Terrence Jones
 - Teacher - Chaquita Kindred
- Megan Downes
 - Maria Larson
 - Charlotte Brooks-Dale
 - Patricia Holloman





Meetings

- ★ Meetings are held at 6:30pm six times per year on the third Wednesday of September, November, January, March, May, and July.
- ★ All meetings are held in person with an option of virtual participation.
- ★ Respite is provided for parents participating in person.
- ★ Time is allotted for public comment and review at each SEAC meeting.

Organization

Activities governed by independent bylaws approved by the school board. (Revised 2009)

Subcommittees utilized as needed to monitor recommendations and concerns of the committee in regards to yearly goals



SEAC Updates for 23/24

- Improved attendance at SEAC meetings
- Offered different location for meeting in person
- Provided respite for parents who attend in person SEAC meetings
- Independently advertised updated SEAC meetings
- No subcommittees met





24/25 Identified Needs Impacting Students and Families

- Lack of resource availability - Parent Resource Center (PRC) Representative position remains unfilled
- Previously approved SEAC bylaws need to be revised and aligned with current SPS Board procedures
- Equity for the utilization of best practices and resources across schools and classrooms serving students with disabilities
- SEAC Growth - SPS Board encouraged to approve borough representatives and all interested members of the community as voting members
- Communication and Parent engagement - The Division is encouraged to utilize social media



Goals 24/25

- SEAC will work with School Board to establish policy that aligns with Federal and State law regarding students with disabilities.
- SEAC will continue to advance disability awareness and acceptance within the Suffolk Public Schools Community.
- SEAC will continue to encourage and increase parental engagement.
- SEAC will collaborate with Suffolk Public Schools staff to ensure best practices and equity for students with disabilities throughout the division. Focus areas include but are not limited to provision/availability of behavior regulation and sensory areas, classroom locations, restraint and seclusion training, and transition/work skills opportunities.

SEAC will consider adjusting goals at the January meeting pending receipt of the December 31 VDOE Parent Survey Results



Here's to a great year!

Upcoming Meeting Dates

January 15, 2025

March 19, 2025

May 21, 2025

July 16, 2025

Location: King's Fork Middle

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Virtual link information is available on the
SPS SEAC website page