

State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)
May 7, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The SAPEC virtual meeting was called to order by SAPEC Chair, Ron Rogers. All members were welcomed, and Ron welcomed all visitors to the meeting. Ron went over the virtual meeting protocol and reminded members to complete the evaluation forms that were sent prior to the meeting.

Roll call was conducted by Sandy Kaufman, Office for Exceptional Children staff. Members absent were Valerie Alloy, Tina Evans, Liesl Gyurko, Beth Harrison, Dana Hollis, Tony Huff, Judith Sgambati, Gregory Taylor, Cynthia Walker, Jennifer Westbrook, Jay Williams, Lisa Woods, Tami Wozniak-Smith, and Mike Zaborowski

Panel Business

Ron asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2019 meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Elections for the 2020-2021 SAPEC year were conducted. Members were instructed to vote for the entire ballot by voting “approve” or “reject” in the chat box.

No public comments or unmet needs.

Office for Exceptional Children Director Updates

Jo Hannah gave an overview of the fiscal year IDEA Part B state award that the office for Exceptional Children received. The total amount of the state award received was \$474,261,504.00. Total allocated for state administration is \$9,678,593.00 which represents the amount of money that is used to support the operations for the Office for Exceptional Children. The total amount for state level activities received was \$52,120,539.00 which is the amount allocated towards projects such as parent mentors, services to students who are deaf or blind, and school psychologist interns. The total amount that is sent to the districts is \$412,462,372.00 which is based on their identified students with disabilities population.

Rules Process Update

Monica gave a brief update on the rules process. The rules went to stakeholders for stakeholder engagement in February, including SAPEC members. The leads and rules team are currently reviewing and revising the rule to prepare the rules for the public comment period which we hope will occur in June. Parise will share the public comment notice with all SAPEC members if they would like to give any further feedback or suggestions on the rules.

Dispute Resolution

Heidi Kleinman, Interim Assistant Director for Dispute Resolution gave a summary of mediation, facilitation, formal state complaints, and due process. The following statistics were gathered from April 24, 2019 through April 24, 2020. Redacted copies of letters of findings for formal state complaints and due process decisions are also posted on the department of education website for those who would like to view them.

From April 24, 2019 through April 24, 2020, 86 requests for mediation were filed with the Office for Exceptional Children. Regarding facilitation, 210 direct requests for facilitation were filed with the Office for Exceptional Children. Heidi also discussed the formal state complaint process. 150 formal state complaints were filed with the Office for Exceptional Children which resulted in 85 letters of findings being issued; 56 of those letters were found to be in violation. Due process complaints filed with the Office for Exceptional Children from April 2019 through April 2020 were 111.

Supports and Monitoring Update

Shelly Beard, Assistant Direct for Supports and Monitoring gave a brief update on the monitoring process during the school building closures. To give districts time to adjust to remote instruction, the monitoring team paused review activities but continued with record reviews, data analysis, and creating reports for district reviews. They have also moved 6 remaining district/community school on-site activities to the 2020-2021 school year. Along with meeting with each state support team and all 37 open districts to plan for any needed adjustments in due dates and activities during the school building closures.

Shelly also gave an overview of the on-site monitoring review data. Out of the eleven schools involved in selective reviews for 2018-2019, eight have cleared and the remaining three are in process of systemic correction reviews. Thirteen schools that are involved in IDEA monitoring and strategic improvement process during the 2018-2019 school year, seven have cleared systemic correction and are moving into the strategic improvement process. Six are in the process of clearing systemic correction before moving in the strategic improvement processes. During the 2019-2020 school year sixteen school districts were selected for an IDEA strategic improvement process. Out of those sixteen districts, ten districts received all on-site reviews, with five receiving their summary reports and internal monitoring training. The other five will receive their reports and training in the fall. The office for exceptional children will conduct the on-site review activities for the remaining six districts in the fall.

Urban Team Update

Chrissy Cline, Assistant Director for the Urban Team gave an update on what the urban team is working on during the school building closures. The urban team is continuing to meet with districts and state supports teams to determine their needs during remote instruction. The team is also coordinating calls with the eleven districts to exchange ideas as well as researching for the eleven districts plan. Research has included finding information on multi-tiered systems of support, positive behavior interventions and supports, universal design for learning, inclusive instructional practices, and gathering math and reading data for the plan.

Ohio's Annual Performance Report

Matt Loesch, OEC Education Program Specialist, discussed Ohio's Annual Performance Report. The annual performance report is required by all states to be submitted by February 1st of each year, compromised of 17 special education indicators that cover compliance with IDEA as well as outcomes for students with disabilities. Matt first discussed compliance indicators with a target of 0%. These include indicators 4b, 9, and 10. Compliance indicators 11, 12, and 13 all have a target of 100%. APR results indicators were discussed next which include indicators with progress and indicators with slippage. Indicators with progress include dropout, statewide assessment, discipline discrepancies, school-age LRE, preschool LRE, and mediation agreement. Indicators with Slippage, which is a term used

by the federal office of Special Education Programs to indicate a worsening of performance by more than 1% from the previous year includes gradation, post school outcomes, and resolution sessions. To conclude Matt discussed that the special education profiles are on hold due to the pandemic and districts having to move to remote instruction. Indicator target setting for the next 6-year APR cycle will begin next school year.

Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourn

Jo Hannah Ward recognized three members whose terms have ended. Laryssa Beatty, Tony Cochren, and Rebecca Holtgreven have all completed their terms with SAPEC. SAPEC members gave them all well wishes and warm remarks as we said goodbye.

A motion was then called to adjourn the meeting. Ron Rogers reminded everyone to complete the meeting evaluations that were sent ahead of the meeting and email them back to Parise Callahan.