

**State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)  
September 24, 2020  
Virtual Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The SAPEC virtual meeting was called to order by SAPEC Chair, Ron Rogers. All members were welcomed. Ron went over the virtual meeting protocol and reminded members to complete the evaluation form that is now through SurveyMonkey.

Sandy Kaufman, Office for Exceptional Children staff, welcomed new members; Heather Morath, Bradley Webb, and Kim Moritz to SAPEC and roll call was conducted. Members absent were Valerie Alloy, Tina Evans, Kimberly Hauck, Jessica Minor, and Jennifer Westbrook. Ron again welcomed new members and encouraged the group to welcome our new members as best they can in this virtual environment that we are in.

Office for Exceptional Children and Ohio Department of Education staff were welcomed and introduced. These individuals were helping to facilitate and take notes for the facilitated break out discussions during the review of Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-20.

Ron reviewed guest responsibilities.

**Panel Business**

Ron asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved.

New SAPEC members were welcomed again. Ron expressed that they were chosen out of over 80 people who applied. Ron acknowledged that the SAPEC executive committee meeting had 100% attendance during their executive committee meeting.

Ron Rogers went over SAPEC member roles and responsibilities and asked members to review the roles and responsibilities for members at their own convenience. The executive committee is currently going over the bylaws and revising them for the new year.

No public comments or unmet needs.

**SAPEC Learning Topic (OAC 3301-51-20 Rule Review)**

Sarah Buoni, Education Program Specialist presented OAC 3301-51-20; *Admission, transfer, suspension and expulsion standard for the Ohio State Schools for the Blind and Deaf*. Sarah briefly discussed the rule and the proposed changes that have been made to the rule thus far. SAPEC members were broken up into facilitated breakout rooms to discuss the rule.

**Office for Exceptional Children Director Updates**

Jo Hannah Ward, Director for the Office for Exceptional Children thanked SAPEC members again for their time and welcomed our three new members. Jo Hannah reminded members about the Reset Restart page on ODE's website specifically regarding the students with disabilities document that includes

essential questions relating to students with disabilities. This page also includes telehealth guidance and a document entitled resources that will help inform districts and parents with information they may need. Jo Hannah also shared the collaboration with OCALI regarding resources that will be shared with the field. More information regarding that is forthcoming, so stay tuned.

Another item is the Office for Exceptional Children Roadmap, we are now starting within our office to build out the implementation team. The draft was sent to Superintendent Paolo DeMaria today and next steps will be to build implementation teams and an implementation plan. The draft will eventually come to SAPEC for you all to review. This will happen in conjunction with the 11 districts plan. The plan is due March of 2021. OEC will roll those pieces out together.

Monica Drvota shared that OEC would have three additional rules to share with SAPEC possibly in the spring along with some guidance items. She mentioned it would be a full year and that we really appreciate all the work that SAPEC does and the thoughts and suggestions you bring to us.

### **Ohio's Annual Special Education Determination**

Kara Waldron, Program Administrator, gave an overview on Ohio's latest special education determination. Each year every state receives a rating on its implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which is known as their determination. The U.S. Department of Education uses both compliance data and student results data to evaluate each state's performance. The determination categories are as follows: meets requirements, needs assistance, needs interventions, and needs substantial intervention. Determination categories are based on determination indicators, including reading and math assessment, exiting and compliance.

Ohio is one of 33 states receiving a determination of needs assistance in 2020. This represents a drop in our determination after two consecutive years of meets requirements. This is based on compliance and student results data from the 2018-2019 school year.

Kara took a closer look at assessment measures included in our determination. Ohio's NAEP participation is based upon data from the 2018-2019 school year. Ohio scored a 1 on all measures with at least 85% of students with disabilities included in NAEP testing for both reading and math. Regarding NAEP performance, Ohio's determination went down from meets performance primarily due to the reduction in percentage of students with disabilities scoring at basic or above on NAEP. Ohio's basic or above rate dropped from 29% to 25% in reading and math.

When looking at exiting measures, Kara discussed drop out and graduation data. Exiting data is still lagged by one year, so the data is based on the 2017-2018 school year. Ohio's dropout rate has remained stable for the last three years at around 20%, which resulted in Ohio receiving a score of 1. An important note is that a 21% dropout rate represents over 4,350 students with disabilities dropping out in just one year. While the percentage of students with disabilities graduating with a regular high school diploma appears to have increased substantially, this is reflective of the additional graduation options that started with the class of 2018. For the 2020 rating, more students with disabilities could be counted as earning a regular high school diploma because those additional options were available to all students, not just students with disabilities. Even with the graduation rate increase, Ohio remains 20 percentage points away from earning a single point for the measure due to low performance relative to other

states. Kara completed her presentation by answering questions and expressed to SAPEC that she would return in the coming months to discuss other data related topics.

### **Ohio's Legislative Updates**

Jennifer Stump, Policy Staff from the Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs gave an update on legislative changes that have occurred because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, a few emergency bills were enacted, which include House Bill 197 and House Bill 164. House Bill 197 was enacted in March and was in response to the Governor's order to close all K-12 schools. This HB addressed the immediate needs related to the 2019-2020 school year including, extended flexibilities for schools around testing and report card timelines, graduation, telehealth, and evaluation. This bill also gave the State Superintendent the authority to extend deadlines. House Bill 164 was enacted in June and focuses on the needs of schools to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. This house bill extends some flexibilities from H.B. 197 and includes new provisions around remote learning plans.

Jessica Stump discussed items that are up for pending legislation; this includes three dyslexia bills, House Bill 436, Senate Bill 102, and Senate Bill 200. House Bill 436 passed the house in June; it is a comprehensive approach to screening and identifying dyslexic students. There is a lot of feedback from districts and families regarding the cost of screening and assessing students and this bill will help families offset that cost. Senate Bill 102 and Senate Bill 200 are pending in the Senate Education Committee. SB 102 will require each school district or public school to conduct early screenings and provide interventions for children with risk factors for dyslexia. SB 200 will require each school district and public school to establish a structured literacy certification process for teachers providing instruction for students in grades K-5.

Jennifer also highlighted three federal pieces of legislation under the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The first piece of legislation is the Elementary and Secondary School Relief Fund. With this fund, Ohio received \$489 million; 90% of this money has been distributed directly to districts and schools which will be available for activities and purchases back to March 13, 2020. The BroadbandOhio Connectivity Grant was also provided in the amount of \$50 million of state activity funds to provide hotspots and internet devices to students. Lastly the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund in the amount of \$105 million was given to the Ohio governor to assist K-12 and higher education institutions.

### **Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourn**

Monica thanked SAPEC members again for taking the time to provide feedback on everything the Office for Exceptional Children brings to SAPEC including OAC 3301-51-20 and reminded everyone that we will be bringing three more rules to SAPEC soon. Jo Hannah echoed that sentiment, stating that we value the suggestions and feedback from SAPEC members.

Ron reminded all members to complete the meeting evaluation through the SurveyMonkey link. Meeting was adjourned.