

**State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)  
December 9, 2021**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order**

The SAPEC meeting was called to order by SAPEC Chair, Trisha Prunty. All members were welcomed.

Sandy Kaufman, Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) conducted roll call. Members absent were Traci Arway, Rachel Barnhart, Jody Beall, Michelle Christman, Kathy Demers, Donna Foster, Kathryn Frederick, Beth Harrison, Dana Hollis, Tony Huff, Jennifer Hull, Jennifer Kobel, Antionette Miranda, Haydiee Perkins, Charlotte Perlaky, Ron Rogers, Tammie Sebastian, Judith Sgambati, Noah Trembly, and Janet Uher.

No guests attended.

**Panel Business**

Trisha Prunty, SAPEC Chair, asked for a motion to approve the November 4th meeting minutes. Bradley Webb made a motion to approve; Aaron Bernstein seconded. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Trisha reminded SAPEC members to state their names when speaking and to utilize the microphones at each side of the room when making any comments or asking questions.

No public comment or unmet needs were presented.

**11 Districts Plan**

Andrea Faulkner, Assistant Director, Office for Exceptional Children presented on the 11 District Plan parent friendly document. Andrea gave a brief overview on the 11 District Plan for panel members who were not with us in the spring when the 11 District Plan was first discussed. Following the overview, panel members engaged in a large group discussion with Andrea Faulkner regarding the 11 districts parent friendly document.

**Parent Surrogate Training**

Karen Johnson and Chrissy Cline, Education Program Specialists, Office for Exceptional Children, provided an update and overview on the Parent Surrogate Training. The training has been in the process of being updated for about 7 years and the updated training has now been made available to the field. Chrissy and Karen walked through the website and modules with SAPEC members and gave an overview of what to expect when taking the training. The updated training modules make it easier to complete the eight-hour long training. This change will allow those to take the course in sections and start and stop when needed. The website includes a video explaining the training and other introductory information as well as a dashboard that will show your completion status. The website for the parent surrogate training is [Ohioparentsurrogate.org](http://Ohioparentsurrogate.org).

**Office for Exceptional Children Updates**

Kara Waldron, Program Administrator, Office for Exceptional Children, provided updates on Indicator Target Setting and Special Education Profiles. During the September meeting Kara went over all the indicators and where the department is in the process. Regarding special education indicator targets.

IDEA requires states to set targets through the 2025-2026 school year. The targets must reflect broad stakeholder input. Every five to seven years the Department works with stakeholders to set performance targets for the 17 indicators.

In August, the Office for Exceptional Children developed the indicator fact sheets which guided the indicator work. In September, the internal review process and targeted stakeholder meetings began. The indicator fact sheets were posted on the Department's website in October for public comment. Virtual stakeholder meetings began in November and continued into December which is where we are now. Those attending virtual stakeholder meetings are charged with reviewing the data and considering all public input to reach a consensus on a set of targets for each indicator. The final targets, rationale and the process used for stakeholder engagement will be reported by Feb 1, 2022. Over 438 public comments across indicators were received. Parents, educators, and agency representatives provided a very diverse perspective regarding students with disabilities. Trisha Prunty, SPAEC chair who is also participating on the virtual indicator stakeholder meetings, shared her perspective regarding the meetings and her appreciation for the work that is being done regarding the targets.

Kara Waldron also discussed the special education profiles which are scheduled to be released next week. The special education indicators established by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, cover a lot of data in many different areas. The indicators are grouped by essential questions based on what they tell us about services and outcomes for children with disabilities. These data give schools answers about kindergarten readiness, achievement levels, preparedness for life beyond high school, services for children with disabilities, and equitable outcomes. The Special Education Profiles are released in two phases. The first phase, on December 16, 2021, will include only indicators with required actions. In May, the Department will update the profiles to add informational indicators that do not have required actions. Special Education Profiles are publicly available (showing masked data and no required actions/monitoring info). The Department is required to post special education indicator data for each district by June 1<sup>st</sup> each year. This year's Special Education Profiles will be posted around that same time.

### **2020-2025 State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**

Amy Szymanski, Office for Exceptional Children, gave a presentation on the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP). The SSIP is a multi-year plan designed to increase capacity to implement, scale up, and sustain evidence-based practices and improve results for children with disabilities and their families.

There are three phases of the SSIP. Phase 1 is the analysis phase. During this phase, the Department completes data analysis, an analysis of state infrastructure to support the SSIP is completed, and a State-identified measurable results (SIMR) is developed. This phase will be completed by February 2022. During Phase 2 the internal team will design the implementation plan. Infrastructure development will be completed, and support to LEAs to implement evidence-based practices will be carried out. During this phase, an evaluation plan will be developed. The Department is in the process of completing an RFQ to secure an external evaluator to help review the evaluations. Phase 2 of the plan began in February of 2021 and will be completed by Fall of 2022. Phase 3 is implementation of the plan. Implementation will begin fall 2022 and continue through spring of 2026.

The SIMR is a statement of the result(s) the State intends to achieve through implementation of the SSIP. The parameters of SIMR should be, based on state data and the capacity of infrastructure to support implementation of improvement strategies in selected results area. The parameters should also be aligned with state priorities and initiatives to reduce duplication, leverage resources, and maximize

results. Ohio's State Systemic Improvement Plan and SIMR are expected to support Indicator 1 to increase the percentage of students with disabilities graduating with a regular diploma. Amy gave an overview of Ohio's SIMR and theory of action, then allowed SAPEC members time to review the documents and provide feedback and suggestions in a large group discussion to conclude her presentation.

**Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourn**

Trisha asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rebecca Hardesty made a motion, Jenny Keesee seconded.

Meeting adjourned.