

**State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)
September 29, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The SAPEC meeting was called to order by SAPEC Vice Chairperson, Tammie Sebastian. All members were welcomed.

Karen Johnson, Office for Exceptional Children (OEC) conducted roll call. Members absent were Tony Huff, Antionette Miranda, Janet Uher and Bradley Webb.

Tammie introduced our new SAPEC members and agency representatives beginning on the panel today. Toni Brenner, Dayton, Ryan Buckingham, Cincinnati, Kathy Hall, Sandusky, Monica McCain, Toledo, Tess Rivero, Dayton, Lori Robinson, Yellow springs all representing the category of Parents of Children with Disabilities were welcomed.

New agency representatives included Roya Hood, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, Stacey Spencer, Ohio Association of Pupil Services Administrators, Erin Stevens, Ohio Education Association. Dana Hollis will be exiting the panel after today's meeting, Matthew Grub, Department of Youth Services will be replacing her as an agency representative.

Tammie acknowledged the resignation of Shannon McGowan and Jennifer Hull. There are now two MAL openings, if interested, please let us know.

Daria DeNoia and Jennifer Hardin also attended as guest.

Panel Business

Tammie Sebastian, SAPEC Vice-chairperson, asked for a motion to approve the May 5 meeting minutes. Rebecca Hardesty made a motion to approve; Haydiee Perkins seconded. Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Tammie 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 shared.

Procedural Safeguards Parent Notice

Tammie Sebastian, Erin Hinkel and Elaine Hamilton from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) presented on the draft procedural safeguards notice. A brief high-level overview of the document was presented to SAPEC members about changes that have been made to the document since panel members last saw the draft documents. OCECD staff briefly went through the key elements throughout the document, including the table of contents, tabbed contents, areas where visuals will be added, and the mission and vision section. Following the overview presentation of the document, panel members reviewed the document among themselves to familiarize themselves with the parent notice document. After the review, the group reconvened and participated in a large group discussion providing feedback and suggestions on the document.

Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15

Maria Lohr, Assistant Director, Gifted, introduced the draft Ohio Administrative Code 3301-51-15 rule. Maria began with an overview on each section of the rule. Following an overview of the rule, panel members were dispersed to review and discuss the rule in facilitated table groups. Panel members reconvened for a large group discussion to debrief regarding what was discussed in their small group discussions while reviewing OAC 3301-51-15.

Office for Exceptional Children Updates

Joe Petrarca, Associate Director, Office for Exceptional Children presented on Ohio's Special Education Determinations. Ohio's special education rating is listed as Needs Assistance for the third consecutive year with an overall score of 78.13% due to the state's rating on indicator 1- graduation and indicator 2 – dropout. A score of 80% is needed to receive Meets Requirements. Ohio has earned 100% on the compliance indicators for five consecutive years. Ohio needs to earn one additional point on the results indicators to increase the overall score to greater than 80% for a Determination of Meets Requirements. Looking at a state comparison of graduation rates, Ohio ranked #54 of 60 states and territories. We are one of 38 states in the Needs Assistance category.

Ohio needs to increase the graduation rate of SWDS by at least 17% to earn one point. That means an increase of over 3,300 students with disabilities graduating with a regular high school diploma or meeting the same standards as their peers without disabilities. Looking at state comparisons of dropout rates, Ohio ranked #41 of 60 states and territories. What we are doing as a state to make this better, is getting the word out to districts through stakeholder groups including, OAPSA, the school psychology association and school organizations, and talking about what we can do collectively to assist districts on how they can better support students who are at risk of not graduating.

Early Learning & School Readiness Updates

Jody Beall, Assistant Director, Office of Early Learning & School Readiness, provided updates for the office. The Preschool Special Education rule was passed through the Chapter 119 hearing at the State Board of Education meeting. The rule will now be finalized for review through the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). If all goes well, the hope is that it will be implemented in October or November. The agency is working with the Department of Developmental Disabilities and OCALI on transition from Early Intervention to Preschool. The team is working on providing training on the Part C to Part B process. The Department is working on taking the trainings to the next level with the addition of vignettes and transition conferences that will showcase examples for parents to see. The Preschool special education team is continuing work on developing their Preschool Special Education monitoring plan. As the document is developed, opportunities for stakeholder feedback including, SAPEC, will be provided.

The Office of Early Learning & School Readiness has also updated the [Step Up to Quality \(SUTQ\)](#) webpage to include new information in the rating process that went into effect July 1, 2022. With the new process, there has also been a decrease in the number of forms for desk reviews. The team has updated their process to reflect this. The Early Learning Development Standards have now been board approved as of June 2022. The field will have until June 2023 to transition over to the new standards. The Office of Early Learning & School Readiness is working on updated guidance and training which will be available in early 2023. Another update is regarding the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). There are now two alternative versions of the KRA available. These updated versions can be found on ODE's website.

Legislative Updates

Jennifer Stump, Director, Policy and Legislative Affairs provided legislative updates to the SAPEC panel. House Bill 583 is the Education omnibus bill which took effect September 23, 2022. This bill includes funding for tutoring for students, EdChoice Expansion eligibility, the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) savings account and Dyslexia screenings. The tutoring program is managed by the Educational Service Center (ESC) of Central Ohio. The program is intended to accelerate learning due to the pandemic. \$2.4 million of federal funds was awarded and is open to public and chartered nonpublic schools for core subject areas of ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The Department is required to compile a list of high-quality tutoring programs for optional use by schools. This list will be posted by October 1, 2022 and updated regularly. The EdChoice Scholarship was also included in House Bill 583. This includes more eligibility for EdChoice expansion and allows siblings of students who received an expansion scholarship for the current or preceding school year to receive a scholarship. Also in House Bill 583 is the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) program which provides \$500 per child to families at 300% of poverty or lower. Over \$120 million is still available for FY 23. Parents can carry over unspent funds from year to year until the student graduates. Other new bills include Senate Bill 166 which allows students who complete a driver's education course provided by their school district to earn up to ½ elective credit toward graduation or up to 2 points toward an industry-recognized credential. House Bill 99 allows schools to have armed personnel on school grounds if armed individuals complete training, a background check and the school notifies the public that it allows staff to be armed. Jennifer stump concluded her presentation with time for panel members to ask questions.

Closing Remarks & Meeting Adjourn

Tammie asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Christy Mattey made a motion, Jenny Keesee seconded.

Meeting adjourned.