

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Virtual Meeting

MINUTES:

September 2, 2020

9:30 am- Noon

Panel Members in attendance: 20

Jeana Winter - Chairperson	Todd Tomerlin- Vice Chairperson	
Dustin Chandler	Jason Martin	Graham L. Sisson, Jr.
Lisa Clayton	Temeyra McElrath	Lori S. Skidmore
Kristen Dial	Corrie Merchant	James M. Williams
Lisa Olenik Dorman	Jewel C. Pitts	Amy Williamson
Pamela Fossett	Cynthia Pollard	Michelle Wood
Tasha Harrison-Betts	Renate Rice	Valencia Woods-Curry
Jassetta Manning-Jones		

Panel Members NOT in attendance: 8 Participating by livestream: up to 44 Interpreters: 2

Call to Order - SEAP Chairperson, Jeana Winter

- Greetings.
- Availability of ASL interpreters.
- Roll call.
- Agenda review.

Public Comments Read Aloud - SEAP Chairperson, Jeana Winter

Public comments were received by email from individuals of the public. Topics included:

- Related services provided to IWD
- Regression of SWD
- Plan for SWD IEP's maintained
- Future school closures (one-to-one f2f access for swd)
- Option of face-to-face school with proper guidelines(consideration for small classrooms, adult travel to classrooms, hybrid classrooms)
- Listserv for SEAP announcements
- Transportation options for IEP meetings when schools have closed

Significant Disproportionality - Eric Dickson, ALSDE SES

- The Special education Advisory Panel was provided an opportunity for training and information to yield broad stakeholder input around significant disproportionality.
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) under 618(d) requires states to annually collect and examine data to determine if significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity is occurring in the state and local educational agencies (LEAs) regarding:
 - The identification of children with disabilities, including identification by disability categories
 - The placement in particular education settings
 - The incidence, duration and type of disciplinary actions including suspensions and expulsions.

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Virtual Meeting

- Significant disproportionality is the remedy when an LEA has been identified by the state as having disproportionality that is significant disproportionality.
- When the state identifies an LEA as having significant disproportionality, the LEA must set aside 15% of funds for coordinated early intervening services.
- The Performance and Data Accountability staff of the ALSDE, SES met with SEAP members back in April 2020 with the purpose of reviewing the current significant disproportionality calculation and identification methodology and determining if there is a need to make changes to the current standards or thresholds.
- As a result, the advisory panel members recommended that the ALSDE, SES use a minimum cell size of 10 and an end n-size of 30.
- The panel members also recommended that the ALSDE, SES reduce the risk ratio from 5.0 to 3.0.
- The ALSDE, SES accepted those recommendations and have applied the new standards for the significant disproportionality analysis.

ALSDE Updates- Crystal Richardson, Special Education Services (SES), Program Coordinator

- ALSDE SES reorganized units:
 - Fiscal Management
 - Dispute Resolution Team
 - Data Accountability Team
 - Compliance Monitoring Team
 - Technical Assistance Team
 - Instructional Support Team???

ALSDE Presentation- Dr. Elisabeth Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning

- State Board of Education Work Session July 14, 2020 presented to SEAP – September 2, 2020
 - Cares Funds
 - GEER \$48 million – 12 months to spend
 - ESSER \$216 million – obligated by September 2022
 - CRF \$100 million distance learning and \$70 million healthcare supports – spend by December 21, 2020+
 - Cares Top Priorities

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Virtual Meeting

- ESSER – LEA – COVID-19 related expenses for LEAs
- ESSER – STATE – Digital Curriculum and Digital Textbooks
- GEER – WiFi on School Buses and Academic Support & Instructional Resources
- CRF – Digital devices and Internet connection
- CRF – Healthcare supports
- Improving Remote Learning
- Remote Learning Access Tools
 - Digital Curriculum/Learning Management System
 - Internet Connection
 - Internet enabled Devices
- Facial Coverings - 2.5 million masks have been ordered and are being delivered to/for Alabama schools; approx. 3 washable reusable masks for each student and staff member; funding was provided by CRF funds.
- Hand Sanitizer – Over 600 gallons of hand sanitizer have been delivered to Alabama Schools; funding was provided by CRF funds.
- Roadmap to Reopening Schools
 - SEAL Taskforce
 - ADPH Color-Coded Guides by County
 - Governance: What the Roadmap is? Or What the Roadmap is NOT?
 - Educational Responsibilities:
 - Alabama department of Public Health
 - Alabama State Department of Education
 - Local School Systems
 - Roadmap Recommendations:
 - Essential
 - Guidance
 - Consideration
 - Navigating the Status of Campus Availability
 - Do Now: Recommendations for school systems categorized by Essential, Guidance, & Consideration. DO NOW before the 2020-2021 school year begins.
 - Return to Campus: Recommendations for school systems categorized by Essential, Guidance, & Consideration
 - Instructional Scenarios:
 - Remote
 - Traditional
 - Blended
 - American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance
 - Will campuses reopen for in-person instruction?
 - YES, the expectation is for Alabama campuses to reopen this fall; BUT, there will be a remote learning option; AND, Local Boards of Education will make determinations about specific changes in campus states throughout the year
 - ALSDE timeline of activities from March 2020 to July 2020

Final Comments - Jeana Winter, SEAP Panel Chairperson

Adjournment - Jeana Winter, SEAP Panel Chairperson

Next SEAP Panel Meeting Date - October 14, 2020