

WHAT IS SEAP?

What is SEAP? The State Advisory Panel (SAP) in Alabama is called the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP).

What is the purpose of SEAP? The purpose of the SEAP is to advise the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), Special Education Services (SES) section on issues related to special education, and to promote communication and cooperation among individuals involved with children and youth with disabilities. The following are the **roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Panel** as listed in IDEA CFR §300.169:

- *Advise the State educational agency (SEA) of unmet needs within the State in the education of children and youth with disabilities. (300.169(a))*
- *Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. (300.169(b))*
- *Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under 618. (300.169(c)) Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports. (300.169(d))*
- *Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. (300.169(e))*
- *Waiver of non-supplant requirement: State must consult with the Advisory Panel regarding provisions of FAPE. (300.164(c)(4))*

Who represents SEAP? Parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26), individuals with disabilities, teacher, representatives of Institutions of Higher Education, state or local education officials (inclusive of those affiliated with McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, administrators of programs for children with disabilities, representatives state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities, representatives of Private Schools and public Charter Schools, representatives of a business organization concerned with the provision of transition services, representatives of the Department of Human Resources or Foster Care, and representatives of State juvenile and Adult corrections agencies.

Advisory vs. Advocacy: The responsibility of panel members is to advise, not to advocate, for an individual position. The SEAP should provide advice based on data, facts, and good judgment. There are groups in the State who serve in an advocacy capacity, such as protection and advocacy centers, disability organizations, and professional organizations.

Advisory Panels as Change Agents: The SAPs are recognized for their critical role in providing input for the Annual Performance Report, State-level determinations, results work, and State Systemic Improvement Plan, as well as advising for improved services for children and youth with disabilities.

If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Alabama Special Education Advisory Panel, please complete an application for consideration. For additional information, contact the ALSDE, SES Section at (334) 694-4782 or via email speced@alsde.edu.