



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee

2012-2013 Annual Report

*Providing the Voice,
Continuing the Progress*

Colorado Commissioner of Education

Robert Hammond

State Board of Education Liaison

Debora Scheffel

**Assistant Commissioner and
State Director of Special Education**

Peg Brown-Clark

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What is CSEAC?

The Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) is a state level committee mandated by federal and state law. Members are interested in the education of children/youth with disabilities. We include parents of, and individuals with disabilities, educational service providers, administrators and representatives from a variety of related agencies. Participation is statewide and representative of diverse disabilities.

Purpose of CSEAC

- Provide input and assistance to the State Board of Education
- Advise the State Director of Special Education
- Advocate and promote communication, collaboration and partnership among educational service providers, children/youth, parents and administrators
- Serve as a liaison between parents of children with special needs, local educational agencies and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE)

Vision Statement of CSEAC

All learners are respected and challenged with high expectations, their needs are met, and student aspirations for success are fulfilled.

Mission Statement of CSEAC

Our mission is to actively represent children/youth with disabilities and impact decisions made on their behalf to enhance the quality of educational services.

Reflections from Co-Chairs Greg Sullivan and Zoe Ann Holmes

The theme for the 2012-2013 CSEAC year was "Students First! Advocating for Improved Outcomes." It was chosen by members attending the CSEAC Annual Retreat with the focus on the CSEAC Mission and Vision, advocating on the behalf of students in need of special education supports and services, keeping high expectations, and placing the emphasis on students remaining first in all we do. The committee sought student input to identify barriers in their educational environment. CSEAC subcommittees worked diligently to keep abreast and give our voice on legislation topics; strengthen relationships between CSEAC, communities and other stakeholders; promote "People First" philosophy statewide; review our bylaws and procedures to keep them updated with Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA); and continue to build membership.

Highlights of 2012-2013

- Welcomed Assistant Commissioner and State Director of Special Education Peg Brown-Clark
- Presented the CSEAC Annual Report to the State Board of Education
- Held Second Annual "People First" Awards Meeting
- CSEAC Co-Chairs, Greg Sullivan and Zoe Ann Holmes, attended the Office of Special Education Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. with Assistant Commissioner and State Director of Special Education Peg Brown-Clark
- Reviewed and gave input on the proposed High School Graduation Guidelines
- Attended and gave input in the Federal Bus Tour in Denver, CO
- Discussed data for students with disabilities and the Statewide Data Management System

- Reviewed the Special Education State of the State Report with regard to goals, performance of Colorado students, and various indicators
- Invited the Poudre School District Transition Program to share information about their transition programs
- Held Third Annual Local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Forum
- Reviewed updates in Colorado Due Process and State Complaints
- Commented on the State Board of Education draft rules implementing Senate Bill 10-191 - Concerning ensuring quality instructions through educator effectiveness
- Received legislative updates from Dr. Debora Scheffel
- Received a presentation on state assessments from Mira Monroe of CDE
- Discussed opportunities for collaboration with the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement (SACPIE) with Dr. Cathy Lines, SACPIE Chair
- Presented to the State Special Education Directors' Fall Conference
- Received a presentation from students with disabilities from Metropolitan State University of Denver about their educational experiences of moving through secondary and postsecondary systems
- Held CSEAC Annual Planning Retreat in July 2012

The committee continues to build working relationships with the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado State Board of Education, the Colorado Legislature, statewide special education directors and educators, local SEACs, parents of children with disabilities, agencies, and other partners in special education.

2012-2013 CSEAC Subcommittee Reports

Bylaws Subcommittee

Purpose: To review and update bylaws as needed.

Goals: Advise on bylaws as requested and draft amendments to by-laws as requested.

Members: Cathy Lines, Chair; Bob Ward, Zoe Ann Holmes, Pam Christy, Joanne Irons

Accomplishments: As the result of CSEAC member goal-setting discussions, the Bylaws Subcommittee accomplished the following:

- Created a document regarding the role of CSEAC members in advocating on special education issues as members of the Committee and/or private citizens; this will be reviewed by the Committee during 2013-2014.
- Responded to needs for clarification regarding membership, including the identified positions needed for CSEAC membership as identified in the bylaws.
- Responded to needs for clarification regarding meeting attendance mandates as stated in the bylaws.

Communications Subcommittee

Purpose: To increase CSEAC networking and visibility between all stakeholders by supporting communication between families, school districts, and CDE.

Goals:

- Strengthen relationships between CSEAC, local SEACs, communities, and other stakeholders
- Promote "People First" philosophy state-wide.

Members: Lori Smith, Cheryl Gaines Co-Chairs; Sarah Metsch, Debra Paul, Tracy Mueller, Kindra Sanchez-Marble, Linda Hayes

Accomplishments:

- Updated Local SEAC contact info
- Mailed letter and Local SEAC Guide 'Power of Partnership' brochure to administrative units (AUs)
- Invited local SEACs to attend CSEAC meetings
- Provided information to Local SEAC listserv
- Began identifying other stakeholders and their contact information
- Organized, planned and participated in 3rd Annual Local SEAC Forum
- Invited resources/agencies to the Forum
- Recognized accomplishments of local SEACs
- Distributed information obtained from SEAC Forum to all interested parties
- Planned for next year's 4th Annual Local SEAC Alternative Forum (e.g., Webinar)
- Discussed and advocated for 'People First' language at events
- Participated and encouraged 'People First' language
- Planned, organized and recognized award recipients at CSEAC's 2nd State 'People First' meeting

Membership Subcommittee

Purpose: To reach out to individuals who meet the criteria for membership on CSEAC and solicit applications.

Goals: Actively recruit and retain members and communicate membership obligations.

Members: Pam Christy, Chair; Zoe Ann Holmes, Cathy Lines, Bob Ward, Joanne Irons

Accomplishments:

- Distributed a notice of vacancies for the 2013-2014 CSEAC year, with the focus on recruiting representatives from Congressional Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 in order to improve statewide representation
- Interviewed 12 well qualified applications and made recommendations for appointment to the State Board of Education
- Recommended the appointment of 6 new representatives: 2 representing parents from Congressional Districts 2 and 6, 1 representing special education administrators from Congressional District 4, 2 representing administrators of programs for students with disabilities from Congressional Districts 4 and 6, and 1 representing child welfare services in the Department of Human Services from Congressional District 1
- Created membership directory that will be available at retreat
- Obtained committee members commitment for service and followed up on absentee members

Public Policy and Legislative Subcommittee

Purpose: To stay abreast of and disseminate information affecting education of children/youth with disabilities through electronic mail to members

Goals: Get in front of issues and in communication loops at the CDE

Members: Pat Chamberlain, Chair; David Aarestad, Adric Arndt, Nancy Lemmond, Tom McMillen, Renee Niskanen, Katherine Rains, Dr. Erin Ross

Accomplishments:

- Gave input into the new ECEA disability categories

- Participated in the Graduation Committee roles development
- Member became involved with SB 191 at the district level and plan on providing input to the State Board of Education

State Performance Plan Committee

Purpose: To review the State Performance Plan (SPP) and work with and advise the representative from CDE regarding changes, issues and concerns of the SPP; through this process.

Goals: 1) Use SPP Part B Indicator 3 to identify examples in reading and math for students with disabilities. 2) Summarize our results to share 3) Review Indicator 3 examples for facilities and summarize 4) Create and share a family friendly brochure describing SPP Indicators.

Members: Kathy Mortensen, Chair; Karin McGuire, Tamara Durbin, Kathy Navrkal, Missy Sieders, Dean Cockcroft

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed Indicator 3 results for all districts
- Identified top 3 performing districts and 3 lowest performing districts
- Formulated interview questions for the top/lowest performing districts
- Contacted district special education directors for members to interview
- Summarized district information
- Reviewed Indicator 3 results for facilities
- Summarized Indicator 3 results for facilities
- Drafted family friendly SPP brochure

CSEAC Advisory Resources

www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSEAC.asp

The Power of Partnership: A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in Colorado (2010)

Provides specific information for families and educators in developing and maintaining effective local special education advisory committees; is sent yearly to all superintendents and special education directors.

Forming a Local Special Education Advisory Committee (Brochure and Insert)

Provides an overview of local special education committees with an insert identifying practical actions for committees.

Introduction to The Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) – A Video

Shares information about the focus and purpose of CSEAC for families of students with disabilities.

CSEAC Members 2012-2013

<u>Name</u>	<u>Congressional District</u>
David Aarestad	6
Adric Arndt	5
Pat Chamberlain	2
Pam Christy	6
Dean Cockroft	4
Tamara Durbin	4
Cheryl Gaines	3
Linda Hayes	5
Zoe Ann Holmes, Co-Chair	5
Joanne Irons	3
Nancy Lemmond	5
Dr. Cathy Lines	6
Karin McGuire-Hill	5
Tom McMillen	7
Sarah Metsch	6
Kathy Mortensen	3
Dr. Tracy Mueller	4
Kathy Navrkal	6
Renee Niskanen	5
Debra Paul	2
Katherine Rains	1
Dr. Erin Ross	2
Kindra Sanchez-Marble	7
Michael Schooler	4
Missy Sieders	5
Lori Smith	7
Gregory Sullivan, Co-Chair	6
Lori Thompson	4
Robert Ward	6

New CSEAC Members 2013-2014

The following six new members have been appointed by the Colorado State Board of Education and will join CSEAC in July 2013:

Roberta Curtis - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 6)

Beverly Harris - representing administrators of program for students with disabilities (Congressional District 4)

Nancy Harris - representing child welfare services in the Department of Human Services from Congressional District 1

Tammy Johnson - representing administrators of program for students with disabilities (Congressional District 4)

Patti McVay- representing administrators of program for students with disabilities (Congressional District 4)

Anna Stewart - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 2)

Interim Appointments

The following individuals have been appointed to serve on an interim basis for 2013 – 2014:

Cassidy Dellemonache - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 7)

Cindy Holden- representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 3)

Committee Meeting Schedule 2013-2014

Thursday, September 19, 2013
Thursday, November 21, 2013
Thursday, February 20, 2014
Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Retreat: July 17 – July 18, 2014

For Additional Information

For further information about the Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee, please visit

www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/CSEAC.asp,

Call 303-866-6943 or contact one of the following persons:

Peg Brown-Clark, Colorado Department of Education
Assistant Commissioner and State Director of Special Education -
brown-clark_p@cde.state.co.us

Cindy Dascher, Colorado Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services Unit, Supervisor of Family and School Partnering - dascher_c@cde.state.co.us

Notes

The Colorado Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, religion, sex, national origin or age, in access to, employment in, or provision of any of CDE's programs, benefits or activities.

The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy:

*Patrick Chapman and Wendi Kispert
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