



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee

2010-2011 Annual Report
Transforming Education: It is Time

Colorado Commissioner of Education

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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 Cathy Lines and Nita McAuliffe

The theme for the 2010-2011 year was *Transforming Education: It is Time*. In selecting this theme, the co-chairs intended to focus on the importance of positive outcomes for all students with disabilities and the role of CSEAC in encouraging this result. Two sets of goals were developed this year: CSEAC group goals set at the 2010 annual retreat by the members and addressed in subcommittees; and leadership goals, developed by the co-chairs, which were a focus of the meeting planning and presentations.

Goals

CSEAC Member Goals:

1. CSEAC will enhance family engagement, outreach and education by:
 - Increasing the number and member participation of local SEACs
 - Identifying and distributing family resources
 - Participating in Indicator #8 statewide activities

2. CSEAC will influence the reauthorization and possible alignment of NCLB and IDEA by:
 - Using current research
 - Developing a position statement and/or paper for stakeholders which defines the important considerations, including family engagement, RtI, student outcomes and local determination

Co-Chair Leadership Goals:

1. Respond to parent input and member needs in planning meeting agendas by using comments and survey data
2. Bring a variety of information, speakers and resources to the members, related to the educational success of students with disabilities
3. Encourage CSEAC members to be informed about current, relevant educational issues in Colorado by subscribing to *The Scoop*, the electronic information bulletin sent weekly by the Colorado Department of Education and *Education News Colorado*
4. Encourage CSEAC representation at various meetings, hearings and committees at the state level, including the Colorado State Board of Education, State Special Education Directors, family leadership conferences, task forces and national webinars/online discussions

5. Develop a climate and structure that will focus on continuity and ongoing work in accomplishing strategic, long-term outcomes for students with disabilities, their parents and their teachers; this includes studying and incorporating CSEAC resources and accomplishments from the current and past years into future endeavors

Accomplishments

In addressing these two sets of goals, CSEAC subcommittees and co-chairs worked on various aspects and tasks (see specific subcommittee summaries below). Overall accomplishments were as follows:

1. Continued the work of creating resources and support for developing local SEACs:
 - The listserv was updated
 - The second Local SEAC Forum was held
 - *The Power of Partnership: A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in Colorado* was published and distributed to all local educational agencies
2. Reviewed and annotated all previous CSEAC advisory information and documents for stakeholder access and use (see in this Annual Report)
3. Surveyed CSEAC members on two different occasions as to interests and needs, then used this data in meeting and communication planning

4. Hosted presentations and speakers on the following topics:

- New Teacher Project
- State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education
- Colorado Parent and Family Resource Panel with the following organizations represented:
 - ◊ Colorado Parent Information and Resource Center (CPIRC)
 - ◊ Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition (Colorado PIRC)
 - ◊ Colorado Department of Education (CDE)
 - ◊ Denver Metro Community Parent Resource Center
 - ◊ Parent to Parent of Colorado
 - ◊ PEAK Parent Center
- Access to Postsecondary Education Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (CDE)
- Colorado Consortium for Special Education Teacher Educators: Streamlining and Aligning the Alternative Teacher and the Teacher in Residence Program
- CDE IEP Family Video Preview
- Legal Issues: Dispute Resolution and the CSEAC Role

5. Presented CSEAC information at the fall State Special Education Directors' meeting
6. Provided CSEAC representation on the Extended School Year (ESY) Task Force
7. Provided CSEAC input on pending changes to the Colorado Exceptional Children's Educational Act
8. Provided CSEAC input on Indicator #8 issues
9. Provided CSEAC representation at the Exceptional Student Leadership Unit Legal Conference
10. Created *Lessons Learned* which will be passed on to the 2011-2012 CSEAC

Recommendations Based on 2010-2011 Priorities and Accomplishments

- Continue the 2010-2011 goals, after reviewing and updating with the members and subcommittees
- Continue collaboration with Colorado Department of Education staff and administrative units in improving the educational outcomes of students with disabilities as measured annually by the State Performance Plan indicators; this includes regular communication regarding the Annual Performance Report, representation on various CDE work groups, understanding local educational agency data and ongoing two-way information sharing

- Continue the subcommittee work from 2010-2011, and specifically:
 - ◊ Finalize and apply the documents which define roles and expectations in pursuit of working most effectively with our Colorado State Board of Education and Colorado Legislative representatives
- Continue the focus on increasing member awareness of clear role expectations such as being informed about relevant educational issues, working with subcommittees between meetings, representing CSEAC at state and national events and attending meetings regularly
- Create role and responsibility descriptions for subcommittee chairs
- Continue representation and presentations at state and national board meetings, committees, task forces and public hearings; this includes the Colorado Board of Education, State Special Education Directors' meetings and national webinars
- Increase the number and diversity of easily-used family/parent resources on the CDE website
- Continue encouragement of local SEAC member and parent input at meetings, including posting the CSEAC agenda online prior to meetings to inform prospective guests of topics to be discussed
- Continue to support development of local SEACs by:
 - ◊ Contacting administrative units in the fall regarding upcoming CSEAC meetings and encouraging the continuation or formation of a local SEAC

- ◇ Sending letter and *Power of Partnership: A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in Colorado* to each superintendent, school board president and special education director
- ◇ Formally recognizing efforts and accomplishments of local SEACs
- ◇ Expanding the use and purpose of the local SEAC listserv
- ◇ Organizing and participating in an annual SEAC Forum to share information and ideas with school districts across the state

2010-2011 CSEAC Subcommittee Reports

Ad Hoc Subcommittee

- Purpose: This committee was created for the 2010-2011 year to coordinate the efforts of the other committees in reaching CSEAC's overall goals, including preparing a position paper on the IDEA Reauthorization
- Goals: To coordinate subcommittee efforts toward CSEAC's annual goals
- Members: Bob Ward and Jane Russell Miller, Co-Chairs; Jann Clevenger, Zoe Ann Holmes, Greg Sullivan, Robin Schwartz and Matt Hudson

- Accomplishments: Because the reauthorization process was delayed, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee shifted its work to helping coordinate the standing subcommittee work and final reports

Bylaws and Procedures Subcommittee

- Purpose: To review and update bylaws as needed
- Goals: Advise on bylaws as requested and draft amendments to bylaws as requested
- Members: Robert Ward, Chair; Jann Clevenger, Zoe Ann Holmes, Greg Sullivan, Robin Schwartz and Matt Hudson
- Accomplishments: Due to CSEAC members recognizing the need to strengthen the continuity of leadership, the subcommittee:
 - ◇ Drafted a change to the bylaws extending the terms of the chairpersons to two years on an alternating basis
 - ◇ Presented the change to the CSEAC membership, according to required practice
 - ◇ Revised the bylaws, after a vote of the membership, to reflect the change; the new bylaws become effective in July 2011

State Performance Plan Subcommittee

- 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, focus on a particular indicator(s) for in-depth study
- Goals: Provide recommendations to CDE on Indicator #8 as to increasing response rate, content of questions and examining positive responses; write a paper on how SPP measurement affects reauthorization; identify and collaborate with CDE personnel who are working on tying IDEA and NCLB together
- Members: Rick Schleusner, Chair; Pat Chamberlain, Pam Christy, Pat Kiel, Dana Scott, Tamara Durbin and Jana Macias
- Accomplishments:
 - ◇ Reviewed Indicator #8 Survey
 - ◇ Provided suggestions to the Exceptional Student Leadership Unit as to survey questions
 - ◇ Worked with CDE staff to better understand the SPP and various indicators

Communications Subcommittee

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

- Goals: To increase CSEAC networking and outreach by 1) enhancing family engagement through diverse membership on local SEACS, 2) identifying family resources and increasing availability and 3) impacting parent and family involvement in IDEA/NCLB Reauthorization
- Members: Paula Christina, Chair; Yvette Plummer, Lori Smith, Cheryl Gaines, Mary Griffin, Sarah Metsch, Joanne Irons and Debra Paul
- Accomplishments:
 - ◇ Identified current local SEACs including contact information
 - ◇ Posted local SEAC information on CDE website
 - ◇ Provided information on local SEAC listserv
 - ◇ Disseminated a letter to administrative units encouraging the formation of a local special education committee and extended an invitation to attend CSEAC quarterly meetings
 - ◇ Formally recognized accomplishments of local SEACs
 - ◇ Organized and participated in a second local SEAC Forum
 - ◇ Distributed information obtained from SEAC Forum to all interested parties

- ◇ Developed a comprehensive document titled, *The Power of Partnership: A Guide for Local Special Education Advisory Committees (SEACs) in Colorado*
- ◇ Explored opportunities to expand use of local SEAC listserv
- ◇ Identified resources for families with diverse needs

Membership Nomination Subcommittee

- Purpose: To reach out to individuals who meet the criteria for membership on CSEAC and solicit applications
- Goals: To fill vacant positions with highly qualified individuals who are interested in impacting decisions made on behalf of children and youth with disabilities in Colorado; to closely monitor compliance with membership requirements
- Members: Jann Clevenger, Chair; Zoe Ann Holmes, Jane Russell Miller, Greg Sullivan, Robert Ward, Robin Schwartz and Matt Hudson
- Accomplishments:
 - ◇ Due to unexpected vacancies, appointed three parent representatives for the 2010-2011 year, each of whom began attending meetings in September 2010

- ◇ Widely distributed a notice of vacancies for the 2011-2012 CSEAC, with a focus on recruiting representatives from Congressional Districts 2, 5 and 7 in order to improve statewide representation
- ◇ Interviewed 11 well-qualified applicants
- ◇ Selected 7 new representatives: four representing parents from Congressional Districts 2, 3 and 5; one representing state child welfare agency from Congressional District 7; one facility school administrator from Congressional District 2; and one representative from a district charter school
- ◇ Regularly reminded members of the attendance expectations at all meetings
- ◇ All returning CSEAC members wrote and signed a "Recommitment Letter" at the April meeting, reminding everyone of the attendance and participation expectations

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: To research the alignment of the reauthorization of IDEA and NCLB (ESEA) and develop suggestions for a CSEAC position statement; compose initial draft of that position statement
- Members: Corey Pierce, Chair; Evan Borg, William Evans, Amanda Jones, Linn Oliver and Erin Ross
- Accomplishments: Because the federal government delayed its work on reauthorizing NCLB through much of the 2010-2011 time frame, the subcommittee work did not proceed as originally intended; however, the following tasks were performed:
 - ◊ Began to gather pertinent information on the reauthorization and the relationship to students with disabilities
 - ◊ Established an electronic process to gather information addressing the reauthorization and share it among CSEAC members
 - ◊ Drafted two "job descriptions" for CSEAC's legislative and board of education representatives so as to most effectively support CSEAC collaboration with these groups

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

Recruiting and Retaining High-Quality Special Educators (April 2006)

Summarizes and recommends specific actions related to specific state and national initiatives

Individualized Transition Planning and Services for Students with Disabilities (February 2006)

Summarizes and recommends specific actions regarding the collaboration of schools, families, agencies and students in early and effective transition planning; includes Colorado Department of Education efforts and specific teaching of academic skills versus accommodating through “study halls”

Response to Intervention (December 2005)

Summarizes and explains Response to Intervention (RtI); makes specific implementation recommendations

Mental Health Issues and Students with Disabilities (July 2005)

Summarizes concerns about lack of state mental health funding and support for students with disabilities who have social/emotional needs; recommends alignment with various agencies, advocacy and available resources; and in schools, recommends behavioral plans, parent counseling and skill building, direct mental health services and professional development

Secondary Education (April 2004, July 2004)

Summarizes and recommends actions related to the importance of post-secondary outcomes of students with disabilities

The Paperwork Reduction Act Bill #H.R. 464 (February 2003)

Summarizes recommendations regarding importance of IEP documentation as it relates to accountability for student outcomes; also specifically responds to bill requirements

Recruitment and Retention Resolutions (January 2003)

Summarizes the importance of effectively recruiting and retaining special education staff, and provides specific recommendations as to training, funding, leadership, paperwork, teacher feedback and professional support

Linking General Education and Special Education (January 2002)

Summarizes the importance of collaboration, training, funding, leadership and other variables with recommendations related to special education students successfully being part of general education

Literacy (July 2001)

Summarizes the importance of literacy and research-based instruction, and addresses prevention and early intervention; applies the above to students with disabilities

CSEAC Members 2010-2011

Name	Congressional District
Evan Borg	1
Pat Chamberlain	4
Paula Christina	2
Pam Christy	6
Jann Clevenger	6
Tamara Durbin	4
William Evans	5
Cheryl Gaines	3
Mary Griffin	7
Zoe Ann Holmes	5
Matt Hudson	5
Joanne Irons	3
Amanda Jones	1
Patricia Kiel	1
Cathy Lines, Co-Chair	6
Jana Macias	3
Nita McAuliffe, Co-Chair	3
Sarah Metsch	6
Jane Russell Miller	2
Gloria Mae Casias Mounts	3
Linn Oliver	7
Adrienne Parrott	7
Debra Paul	2
Corey Pierce	4
Yvette Plummer	7
Duane Richert	3
Erin Ross	2
Rick Schleusener	4
Robin Schwartz	2
Dana Scott	1
Lori Smith	7
Representative Judy Solano	2
Gregory Sullivan	6
Robert Ward	6

New CSEAC Members 2011-2012

The following new members have been appointed by the Colorado State Board of Education and will join CSEAC in July 2011:

Connie Fixsen—representative from the state child welfare agency responsible for foster care (Congressional District 7)

Joanne Irons—representing parents of children with disabilities and currently serving an interim appointment (Congressional District 3)

Nancy Lemmond—administrator from a district charter school (Congressional District 5)

Kelly O'Shea—administrator from a facility school (Congressional District 2)

Debra Paul—representing parents of children with disabilities and currently serving an interim appointment (Congressional District 2)

Robin Schwartz—representing parents of children with disabilities and currently serving an interim appointment (Congressional District 2)

Melissa Sieders—representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 5)

Schedule of Meetings 2011-2012

September 15, 2011

November 17, 2011

February 16, 2012

April 19, 2012

July 19 & 20, 2012

Contact the CDE Exceptional Student Leadership Unit for times and locations at 303-866-6943.

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:

Cindy Dascher, Colorado Department of Education Parent and Family Consultant, Exceptional Student Leadership Unit
dascher_c@cde.state.co.us

Ed Steinberg, Colorado Department of Education Assistant Commissioner and State Director, Student Support Services
steinberg_e@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:

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