



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee

2011-2012 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 Bob Ward and Greg Sullivan

The theme for the 2011-2012 year was "Providing the Voice, Continuing the Progress." In selecting this theme, the co-chairs sought to focus the Committee's effort to provide a voice for students receiving special education services and supports across the state to the state decision makers and to continue advocating for progress in meeting the educational needs of students. Over the year, the Committee's annual goals changed as the planned visit from the federal Office of Special Education Programs was postponed and Senate Bill 11-070 was not enacted.

Highlights of 2011-2012

- * Presentation to the state Special Education Directors' Fall Conference
- * Participation in the selection of the new Assistant Commissioner and State Director of Special Education
- * Presentation of the CSEAC Annual Report to the State Board of Education
- * Introduction to Associate Commissioner Keith Owen and Assistant Commissioner Peg Brown-Clark
- * Comment on the State Board of Education draft rules implementing Senate Bill 10-191

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
Colorado Department of Education
1560 Broadway, Suite 1450
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-866-6780
chapman_p@cde.state.co.us*

*Wendi Kispert
Colorado Department of Education
201 E. Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-6815
kispert_w@cde.state.co.us*

Meeting Schedule 2012-2013

September 20, 2012
November 15, 2012
February 21, 2013
April 17, 2013
July 18 & 19, 2013

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 Services Unit
dascher_c@cde.state.co.us

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

- * Review of trends in state due process and special education complaints
- * Education and comment on proposed definition changes to Exceptional Children's Educational Act
- * Third Annual Local Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Forum
- * First Annual "People First" awards
- * Increasing CSEAC membership and member participation

Work continues fostering relationships with the Colorado Department of Education, State Board of Education, the Colorado Legislature, local special education directors, and other partners in special education. In addition, reviews and updating of Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) white papers on literacy and mental health are underway.

2011-2012 CSEAC Subcommittee Reports

Bylaws Subcommittee

Purpose: To review and update bylaws as needed

Accomplishments: A review of the bylaws indicated that no changes were necessary this year.

Members: Cathy Lines, Chair and Bob Ward

Communications Subcommittee

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

Accomplishments:

- ◇ Organized the third Annual Local SEAC Forum attended by over 50 parents, educators and advocates
- ◇ Continued promotion and support to local SEAC's throughout the state
- ◇ Updated current local SEAC contact information on Colorado Department of Education website
- ◇ Organized the first annual "People First" awards special meeting honoring individuals from across the state who have made a difference for individuals with special needs

Members: Cheryl Gaines and Lori Smith, Co-Chairs
Joanne Irons, Sarah Metsch, Debra Paul

Membership Subcommittee

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

Accomplishments:

- ◇ Due to unexpected vacancies, appointed two interim representatives for the 2011-2012 year
- ◇ Widely distributed a notice of vacancies for the 2012-2013 CSEAC year, with a focus on recruiting representatives from Congressional Districts 1, 3, 4 and 7 in order to improve statewide representation
- ◇ Interviewed 28 well qualified applicants and made recommendations for appointments to the State Board of Education
- ◇ Recommended the appointment of 11 new representatives: 4 representing parents from Congressional Districts 4, 5 and 7; 2 representing special education administrators from Congressional District 5; 1 repre-

Katherine Rains- representing private schools
(Congressional District 1)

Kindra Sanchez-Marble - representing the Charter School Institute (Congressional District 7)

Michael Schooler - representing general education administrators (Congressional District 4)

New CSEAC Members 2012-2013

The following new members have been appointed by the Colorado State Board of Education and will join CSEAC in July 2012:

David Aarestad - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 7)

Adric Arndt - representing special education administrators (Congressional District 5)

Dean Cockroft - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 4)

Linda Hayes - representing special education administrators (Congressional District 5)

Karin McGuire-Hill - representing the Department of Corrections (Congressional District 5)

Tom McMillen - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 7)

Kathy Mortensen - representing special education administrators (Congressional District 3)

Dr. Tracy Mueller - representing institutions of higher education (Congressional District 4)

Kathy Navrkal - representing the division of youth corrections in the Department of Human Services (Congressional District 6)

Renee Niskanen - representing parents of children with disabilities (Congressional District 5)

representing the Department of Corrections from Congressional District 5; 1 representing institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel from Congressional District 4; 1 representing private schools from Congressional District 1; 1 representing the Charter School Institute from Congressional District 7; and 1 representing general education administrators from Congressional District 4

- ◇ Recommended the appointment of 2 representatives who had been serving in interim positions: 1 representing the division of youth corrections in the Department of Human Services and related services personnel from Congressional District 6; and 1 representing special education administrators from Congressional District 3
- ◇ Obtained committee members' commitment for service and followed up on absentee members

Members: Zoe Ann Holmes, Chair
Pam Christy, Cathy Lines, Yvette Plummer,
Greg Sullivan

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

Accomplishments:

- ◇ Meeting session with State Senator Evie Hudak on pending legislation
- ◇ Drafted job descriptions for State Legislator and State

Board representatives to CSEAC

- ◇ Reviewed and drafted comments on proposed changes to definitions for disability categories in the Exceptional Children’s Educational Act
- ◇ Reviewed and commented on draft State Board of Education rules on Senate Bill 10-191
- ◇ Received updates on pending legislative proposals from Dr. Debora Scheffel and Dr. Ed Steinberg

Members: Corey Pierce and Erin Ross, Co-Chairs
Pat Chamberlain

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, focus on a particular indicator(s) for in-depth study

Accomplishments:

- ◇ The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) provided a training of the 20 Indicators that make up the State Performance Plan (SPP).
- ◇ CSEAC members reviewed their local Administrative Unit SPP Indicator Profile, provided by the CDE.
- ◇ An example of what local data means and how a district or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may respond to Indicator results was presented to the CSEAC. (Growing SPP Indicators Top 10 list)

CSEAC Members 2011-2012

Name	Congressional District
Pat Chamberlain	4
Pam Christy	6
Tamara Durbin	4
William Evan	5
Connie Fixsen	7
Cheryl Gaines	3
Zoe Ann Holmes	5
Joanne Irons	3
Amanda Jones	2
Patricia Kiel	1
Nancy Lemmond	5
Dr. Cathy Lines	6
Sarah Metsch	6
Jane Russell Miller	2
Kathy Mortensen	3
Kathy Navrkal	6
Kelly O’Shea	2
Debra Paul	2
Dr. Corey Pierce	4
Yvette Plummer	7
Dr. Erin Ross	2
Robin Schwartz	2
Dana Scott	1
Lori Smith	7
Melissa Sieders	5
Gregory Sullivan, Co-Chair	6
Robert Ward, Co-Chair	6

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; the above applies to students with disabilities.

Members: Pat Kiel and Kathy Mortensen, Co-Chairs
Tamara Durbin, Connie Fixsen, Kathy Navrkal, Kelly O'Shea, Missy Sieders

Literacy Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Purpose: Update the Literacy Position Paper

Accomplishments: Reviewed, researched and updated the current position paper on literacy. Committee review and approval expected within the coming year

Members: Missy Sieders, Chair

Mental Health Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

Purpose: Update the Mental Health Position Paper, identifying status of memo of understanding with Colorado Links, and determine next steps for strengthening relationship with Colorado Links

Accomplishments:

- ◇ Reviewed, researched and updated the current CSEAC position paper on mental health. Committee review and approval expected within the coming year
- ◇ Inquired into status of memorandum of understanding with Colorado Links. Follow-up expected this year

Members: Erin Ross, Chair and Debra Paul

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.