



Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC)

**Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee
and
Local Special Education Committees
Shared Ideas 2009**

Benefits of Stakeholder Collaboration:

- ❖ Builds communication, partnering and trust
- ❖ Assist with systemic changes, policies, and programming
- ❖ Collaborate with other advisory groups in the district
- ❖ Family and professional partnerships increases student success

Building a Local Special Education Advisory Committee:

- ❖ Start with a design team; establish structure and participation; district and parent representation
- ❖ Establish a mission statement, purpose and by-laws
- ❖ Determine how and who to advise
- ❖ Calendar of meetings and events
- ❖ Agenda for meetings
- ❖ Create a supportive and responsive environment
- ❖ Determine annual projects and activities
- ❖ Offer time for public input during meetings
- ❖ Offer guest speakers
- ❖ Have student representation
- ❖ Email invitation and flyers to all stakeholders

Projects/Activities:

- ❖ Review, revise and advise programs/services
- ❖ Participate in training staff/development
- ❖ Participate in legislative actions
- ❖ Build communication through surveys, newsletter, district website
- ❖ Join and assist other district groups for cooperative efforts
- ❖ Participate in community organizations
- ❖ Develop resource directory and committee brochure
- ❖ Acknowledging staff for a job well done
- ❖ Participate in job interviews for special education staff

- ❖ Develop family special education trainings on a variety of topics; ex: transition, IEP, conflict resolution, RtI
- ❖ Assist with grant writing
- ❖ Offer events on a variety of topics:
 - A night with legislators, BOE members, administrators to discuss current issues and concerns
 - Family/Professional Coffee and Dessert
 - Participate in community Mobilizing efforts
 - Partner with PEAK Parent Center
 - Resource Fair

Reaching Out:

- ❖ Family recruitment: recommendations from administrators, parent centers, disability organizations, participants in leadership trainings and other advisory boards, and legislative advocacy.
- ❖ Participate in CSEAC and SEAC listserv through CDE
- ❖ Speak at principal and staff trainings
- ❖ Distribute information at IEP meetings
- ❖ Provide materials to each school
- ❖ Utilize district website, newsletter, radio
- ❖ Personally invite administrators and BOE members to attend
- ❖ Invite CDE consultants to speak on topics
- ❖ Ask high school groups to assist with baby sitting

Challenges:

- ❖ Managing diversity among members
- ❖ Scheduling meetings, time commitments, and transportation
- ❖ Baby sitting
- ❖ Maintaining a positive, constructive and effective purpose
- ❖ Staying focused on all disabilities
- ❖ Disseminating information to families
- ❖ Getting cooperation between all stakeholders
- ❖ Eliminating negative stigmatism
- ❖ Moving away from personal agendas