

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT



2019-2020



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# COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Matthew Blomstedt, Ph.D.

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED)

Steve Milliken  
Administrator

Amy Rhone  
Assistant Administrator

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

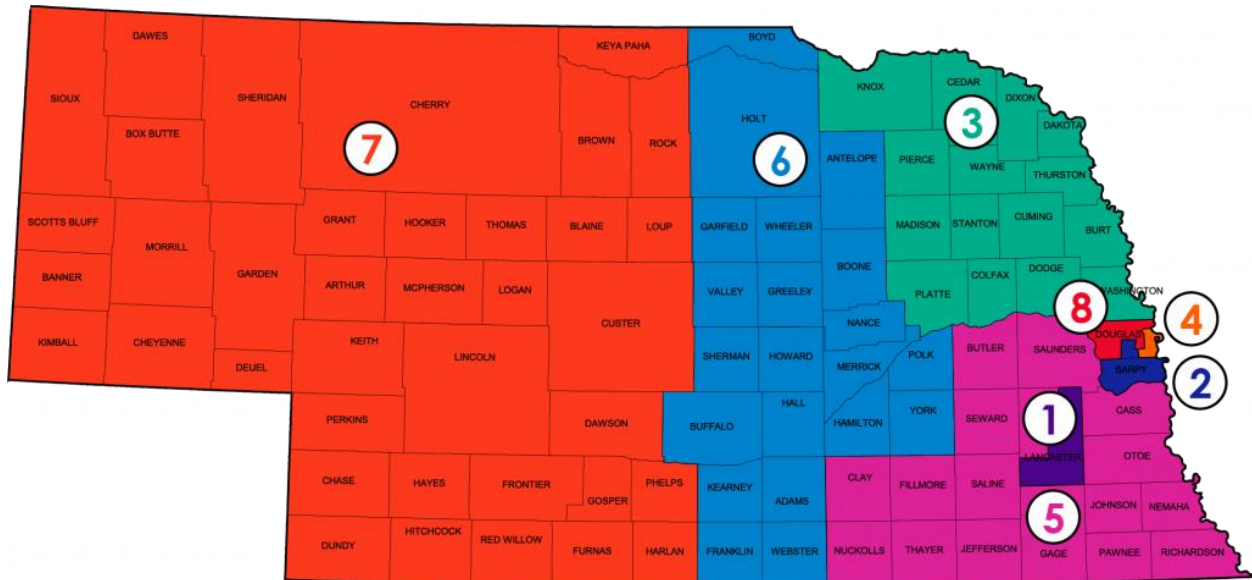
Mark Draper  
Facilitator

Leslie Galloway  
Recorder

### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

| STATE BOARD MEMBERS      |                           | DISTRICT |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Patsy Koch Johns         | Vice President            | 1        |
| Lisa Fricke              |                           | 2        |
| Rachel Wise              |                           | 3        |
| John Witzel              |                           | 4        |
| Patricia Timm            |                           | 5        |
| Maureen Nickels          | President                 | 6        |
| Robin Stevens            |                           | 7        |
| Deborah Neary            |                           | 8        |
| Matthew Blomstedt, Ph.D. | Commissioner of Education |          |

### NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DISTRICT MAP



Funded by Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) Part B funds, grant H027A160079. Copies of this report, and additional information regarding SEAC and the NDE Office of Special Education can be obtained at <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped>



## **A NOTE FROM THE SEAC CHAIR**

It has been a privilege to serve as a member of the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) over the past four years. As a parent of two individuals on the autism spectrum, as well as other children with learning disabilities, I have appreciated the opportunity to represent Nebraska parent stakeholders. I was especially honored to join the Executive Committee in 2019, serving as Chairperson this past year.

The membership of SEAC consists of parents, educators, administrators and representatives from various state agencies who are tasked with providing special education guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) - Office of Special Education. Members meet each quarter focusing their time together on the overarching priority of improving the outcomes for all students with disabilities.

As I think about the work of SEAC, I want to highlight just a few of the Council's strengths, which I have grown to appreciate, as well as some of SEAC's 2019-2020 accomplishments:

- One of the strengths of SEAC is the focus on equipping members to participate. Every meeting is guided by the functions of SEAC under IDEA and each member is presented with multiple opportunities to learn from each other and from disability specific experts. Asking questions is always valued in the group. SEAC members are also encouraged to attend conferences and other learning opportunities to increase their knowledge about special education law and practices.
- Another strength of SEAC is the accessibility members have to on-line information. The NDE - Office of Special Education has a user friendly website full of resources including a page that is dedicated to SEAC business, making it convenient for SEAC members to access meeting agendas, notes and presentation materials. Particularly during this season of Covid-19, I have appreciated the incredible amount of resources the Department has shared on their website.
- The current SEAC leadership places great emphasis on collaboration and sharing of information from other organizations. This past year SEAC members benefitted from updates from the Nebraska Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES) at each meeting.

- At every meeting SEAC members receive updates on federal and Nebraska legislative bills that may impact special education. As a result of legislative discussion, in 2020 SEAC published a position statement on LB 147, the Nebraska Student Discipline Act.



In closing, I want to thank our NDE Special Education administrators and staff for all of your work in supporting the efforts of SEAC. Along with the coordination of the meeting details, each meeting involves the sharing of a significant amount of information and data outcomes with SEAC members. Thank you for presenting the material in a format that allows every member to participate and for answering our questions.

I also want to thank all of our SEAC members for their commitment to improving the outcomes for all students with disabilities in Nebraska. Thank you for your consistent attendance at our meetings and for your participation in our discussions. At every meeting as I listen and learn from all of you, I continue to be optimistic about the future of

special education in Nebraska.

Kind Regards,

Julie Czepa

## WHAT IS THE NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC)?

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is an advisory panel established to provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities. SEAC members become knowledgeable about research-based educational practices and review Nebraska Department of Education, Office of Special Education activities designed to improve outcomes for children with disabilities. The Council reviews and approves Nebraska's State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report.

SEAC Members are selected for a term of four years, and seek information from the perspectives of their constituency groups and share information with these same constituency groups. Members include parents and professionals from all areas of the state. SEAC serves in an advisory capacity to the NDE Office of Special Education, the Commissioner of Education, and to the Nebraska State Board of Education.

The responsibility of each Council member is to advise, (i.e. inform, counsel, recommend, suggest or guide) the Department of Education, not to advocate for individual issues. Recommendations are made by SEAC for the consideration and possible action by the NDE Special Education Office and the State Board.



2019-2020 Executive Committee (L-R) Terry Houlton, Amy Rhone, Assistant Administrator of the Office of Special Education, Kasey Alexander, Julie Czepa, Linda Safranek, and Steve Milliken, Administrator of the Office of Special Education

## REGULATORY AUTHORITY

By the authority of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, each state is required to have a state advisory panel that provides policy guidance in the area of serving children with disabilities. The IDEA regulations specify the duties and make-up of each state advisory panel. In Nebraska, this panel is called the *Nebraska Special Education Advisory Council*.

EXCERPTS FROM THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT OF 2004 (IDEA):

I. Regulatory Authority for Committee

*Sec. 1412(21)(A) State Advisory Panel*

- a. The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

II. Committee

*Sec. 1412(21)(D)*

d. The state advisory panel shall –

- i. Advise the state education agency of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities;
- ii. Comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- iii. Advise the State educational agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618;
- iv. Advise the State educational agency in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under this part; and
- v. Advise the State educational agency in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.



Dr. Tom Monk from Westat Technical Assistance Center presenting to SEAC.



## 2019-2020 SEAC MEMBERSHIP

| Name / State Board District                 | SEAC Representation | Term End |
|---|---------------------|----------|
| Kasey Alexander §<br>State Board District 3 | (i) (ii)            | 2023     |
| Ann Auten<br>State Board District 5         | (i) (iii)           | 2020     |
| Laura Barrett<br>State Board District 7     | (v)                 | 2022     |
| Paul Bohn<br>State Board District 2         | (X)                 | 2020     |
| Amy Bonn<br>State Board District 2          | (i)                 | 2022     |
| Adia Brightman<br>State Board District 4    | (v)                 | 2021     |
| † ‡ Julie Czepa<br>State Board District 2   | (i)                 | 2020     |
| Jeremy Ekeler<br>State Board District 1     | (i) (vii)           | 2020     |
| Kris Elmshaeuser<br>State Board District 6  | (i) (v)             | 2022     |
| Kristin Flott<br>State Board District 4     | (i) (vi)            | 2022     |
| Barb Gentrup<br>State Board District 6      | (i) (ii)            | 2022     |
| Brigid Griffin §<br>State Board District 3  | (viii)              | 2023     |
| Johanna Higgins<br>State Board District 1   | (iii)               | 2022     |
| † Terry Houlton<br>State Board District 2   | (v)                 | 2022     |
| Samantha Jacobson<br>State Board District 5 | (i) (ii)            | 2021     |

|                               |           |      |
|-------------------------------|-----------|------|
| Kami Jessop                   |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 8</i> | (v)       |      |
| Mary Jorgensen                |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 2</i> | (i)       |      |
| Tom Kadavy                    |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 1</i> | (i)       |      |
| Seamus Kelly §                |           | 2023 |
| <i>State Board District 8</i> | (i)       |      |
| Renee Kiernan                 |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 2</i> | (i)       |      |
| Tracey Kovar                  |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 4</i> | (vii)     |      |
| Kristen Larsen §              |           | 2023 |
| <i>State Board District 1</i> | (vi)      |      |
| Bryanna McAuley               |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 5</i> | (i)       |      |
| Matthew McNiff                |           | 2022 |
| <i>State Board District 5</i> | (i) (vii) |      |
| Cathy Mohnike §               |           | 2023 |
| <i>State Board District 1</i> | (iv)      |      |
| Dr. Felicity Post §           |           | 2023 |
| <i>State Board District 5</i> | (iii)     |      |
| Heidi Reelfs                  |           | 2020 |
| <i>State Board District 4</i> | (ii) (vi) |      |
| Linda Safranek                |           | 2021 |
| <i>State Board District 8</i> | (i) (ii)  |      |
| Graciela Sharif               |           | 2021 |
| <i>State Board District 8</i> | (i) (vi)  |      |
| Allison Wilson                |           | 2021 |
| <i>State Board District 1</i> | (ix)      |      |

## OTHER ASSOCIATES

**Mark Draper**

*SEAC Facilitator*

**Leslie Galloway - NDE**

*SEAC Recorder*

**LEGEND:** **(i)** parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or Individuals with disabilities; **(ii)** teachers; **(iii)** representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; **(iv)** State and local educational officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act; **(v)** administrators of programs for children with disabilities; **(vi)** representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; **(vii)** representatives of private schools and public charter schools; **(viii)** not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and **(ix)** a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and **(x)** representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies. Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.



SEAC Members Dr. Matthew McNiff and Dr. Felicity Post.

## **SEAC MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

### Categories of Required Representation

EXCERPTS FROM THE FEDERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT – IDEA, SEC. 1412(21)(B):

- B. Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor, or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including—
- i. parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26); or Individuals with disabilities;
  - ii. teachers;
  - iii. representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
  - iv. State and local educational officials who carry out activities under Homeless Assistance Act;
  - v. administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
  - vi. representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
  - vii. representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
  - viii. not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and
  - ix. a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and
  - x. representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.
- Special Rule – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

Special Rules – a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).

EXCERPT FROM NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES ARTICLE II, SEC. B:

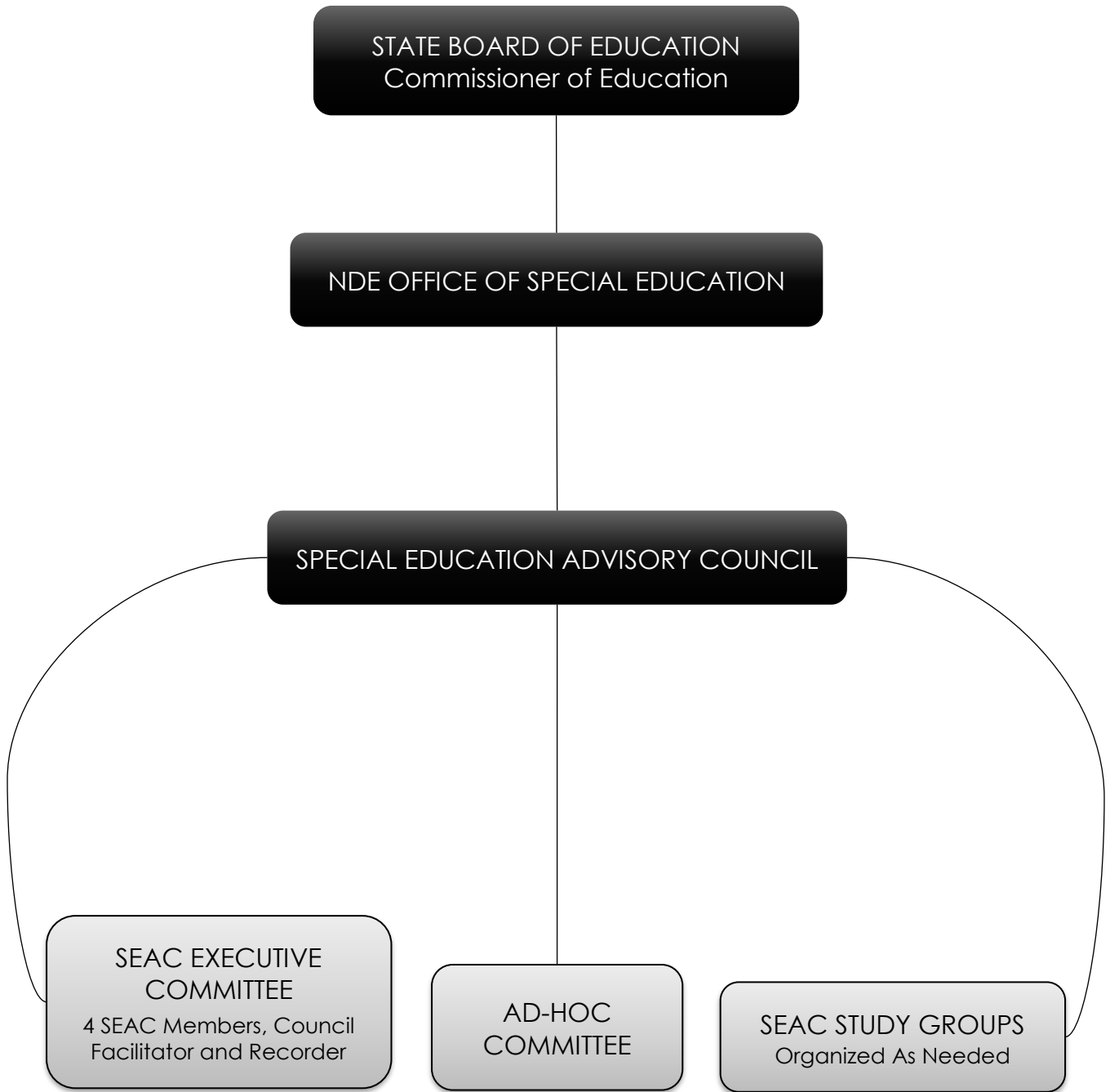
The members shall be selected so as to represent all eight of the State Board of Education election districts. The Council voting membership shall not be fewer than 15 members.

## SEAC PRIORITIES

*For the purpose of providing policy 4803y guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education, with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities will serve for a focus of continuity as we transition from 2019-2020 through 2021-2022.*

1. To participate in the development, review and revision of the State Systemic Improvement Plan Process with input on the Targeted Improvement Plan implementation at the local level to improve results for students with disabilities in the following areas:
  - a. Impact Area 1: Improving Academic Achievement, Functional Outcomes and Child Outcomes in Natural and Inclusive Environments
  - b. Impact Area 2: Improving Communication and Relationships Among Families, Schools, Communities and Agencies
  - c. Impact Area 3: Improving Transitions from the Early Development Network to Preschool and School to Living
2. To review the effectiveness of the current State Performance Plan (SPP) through the analysis of data in the Annual Performance Report (APR) to determine that Nebraska is demonstrating continuous improvement in the compliance and results indicators. To inform the NDE in the development and improvement of The LEA Level Determinations.
3. To monitor state and federal legislation, including the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure the linkage between ESSA and IDEA.
4. To inform NDE – The Office of Special Education in initiatives that are relevant to both federal and state priorities within special education, specific to:
  - a. Health/Medical
  - b. Family and Professionals Support
  - c. Discipline/Behavior - Suspension/Expulsion
  - d. Mental Health
  - e. Social/Emotional Learning
  - f. Transition Supports

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE



## REVIEWING THE WORK OF SEAC 2019-2020

The Special Education Advisory Council met for four regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year, with a new member orientation meeting conducted prior to the first meeting of the year. The first three meetings were held in person in Lincoln, NE with the final meeting of the year conducted via Zoom due to the COVID 19 restrictions. This distance meeting was conducted as the result of a gubernatorial waiver provided to all state agencies that required face to face meetings per governmental stipulations. The status of COVID 19 clearly impacted not only the final SEAC meeting of the year, but the provision of education to all students in Nebraska; especially those requiring special education.

The 2019-2020 SEAC year began with an Orientation training session for new members joining the council. This training was conducted by Norm Ames, Associate Director of the Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) at Utah State University. Mr. Ames, or another representative from TAESE, has conducted our SEAC orientation training for several years. Additionally, new Council members reviewed the SEAC Priorities, received an overview of the Nebraska State Performance Plan, and were oriented to the Annual Performance Plan.

Throughout the year, the SEAC Executive Committee met prior to each meeting to develop meeting agendas, monitor the progress of any SEAC committee work and prioritize agenda items that required SEAC recommendations or specific actions.

At each meeting, SEAC members were afforded the opportunity to share information from their respective constituent groups, learned about professional learning activities sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Education – Office of Special Education, and engaged in learning about the status of critical initiatives. The Council forwarded a project on the development of a “parent friendly” guide to procedural rights from an Ad Hoc committee to Nebraska PTI. This project was undertaken in spring 2020 with an expectation that a draft report would be provided to SEAC at the first meeting in the 2020-2021 year. Additionally, SEAC developed a position statement to the Nebraska Unicameral regarding a proposed bill (LB 147) that could affect physical restraint of special education students. Due to COVID 19’s impact on the state legislative body, it is doubtful that this bill will advance due to far greater priorities. However, it is important to note that the SEAC position statement, opposing a legislative bill, was the first action of this type by SEAC in many years.

As part of the typically provided materials at SEAC meetings, information was routinely provided on the status of Due Process cases, federal and state legislation, guidelines from the USA Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), the state Annual Performance Plan (APP), State Performance Plan (SPP) updates, the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP), school district reporting obligations and progress on the statewide Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) initiative.

SEAC priorities shaped the foundation of the construction of each SEAC meeting agenda. All SEAC agenda, with links to SEAC meeting minutes are included herein.

NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
 An advisory panel providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of  
 Education with  
 respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

AGENDA  
 Embassy Suites  
 1040 P Street  
 Lincoln, NE  
**September 12, 2019**

|       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 8:00  | Registration   |   |
| 8:30  | Welcome  | Mark Draper<br>Julie Czepa                                      |
| 8:45  | Getting to Know You Activity   | Mark Draper   |
| 9:00  | SEAC Orientation   | Norm Ames   |
| 10:00 | Break  |   |
| 10:15 | SEAC Orientation (Cont'd)  |   |
| 11:00 | Council Business   | Julie Czepa   |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Meetings Law Announcement</li> <li>• Approval of September 12, 2019 Agenda*</li> <li>• Approval of May 2, 2019 Minutes*</li> <li>• Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li> <li>• Executive Committee Report</li> <li>• Executive Committee Replacement for Brian Wojcik</li> <li>• Ad Hoc Committee Update</li> <li>• Public Comment***</li> </ul> |   |
| 11:45 | Strategic Plan Direction – Behavior Theme Clarified  | Mark Draper   |
| 12:00 | Working Lunch – Strategic Planning Small Group Work and/or Ad Hoc Committee Work   |   |
| 1:00  | NDE Special Education Office Team Reports  |   |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of Staff</li> <li>• Director's Report</li> <li>• Parts B &amp; C Programming</li> </ul>  | Steve Milliken<br>Amy Rhone<br>Steve Milliken<br>Steve Milliken |



- OSEP Determinations and Future Constrains Kelly Wojcik  
Robyn Gonzales
- Reading Improvement Act and Dyslexia Update Rhea Hochstein
- ATP Presentation Brian Wojcik

**Please feel free to address personal needs as no formal break will take place in the afternoon.**

2:45 SEAC Logistics and Information Dissemination Mark Draper

3:00 Adjourn

Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 14, 2019  
 Thursday, January 16, 2019  
 Thursday, April 30, 2019

NE SEAC Executive Committee Members

Julie Czepa, Chair (2019-2020)  
 Terry Houlton, Chair Elect (2020-2021)  
 Open - 2021-2022 Representative for Exec Comm, to be elected in November 2019  
 Open – 2022-2023 Representative for Exec Comm, to be elected in November 2019  
 Mark Draper, SEAC Facilitator  
 Amy Rhone, Assistant Director

Upcoming Conferences

Nebraska Dyslexia Conference – “A Fall Celebration” – October 19, 2019 – Gretna, NE  
 Tri State Regional Special Education Law Conference - November 2 – 3, 2019 – Omaha, NE  
 Para Educator Conference – November 19, 2019 – Kearney, NE

\*Items requiring Council action  
 \*\*Lunch is provided for SEAC members and scheduled presenters  
 \*\*\*Per the SEAC Operating Procedures – opportunity for public comment if requested in advance

For more detailed information on SEAC Meetings, Agendas and Minutes visit:  
<https://sites.google.com/education.ne.gov/seac/home>

NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
 An advisory panel providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of  
 Education with  
 respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

AGENDA  
 Embassy Suites  
 1040 P Street  
 Lincoln, NE  
**November 14, 2019**

|       |  |                            |
|-------|--|----------------------------|
| 8:00  | Registration   |                            |
| 8:30  | Welcome  | Mark Draper<br>Julie Czepa |
| 8:45  | Getting to Know You Activity   | Mark Draper                |
| 9:00  | Council Business   | Julie Czepa<br>Mark Draper |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Meetings Law Announcement</li> <li>• Approval of November 14, 2019 Agenda*</li> <li>• Approval of September 12, 2019 Minutes*</li> <li>• Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li> <li>• Executive Committee Report</li> <li>• Executive Committee Election</li> <li>• Class of 2021-2022 (Brian Wojcik – resignation)</li> <li>• Class of 2022-2023 (new member)</li> <li>• NASES Update</li> <li>• Ad Hoc Committee Update</li> <li>• Public Comment***</li> </ul> |                            |
| 10:00 | Break  |                            |
| 10:15 | ATP Presentation   | Brian Wojcik               |
| 11:15 | Strategic Plan Direction – Behavior Theme Priorities   | Mark Draper                |
|       | Special Education Update on Priorities   | Amy Rhone                  |
| 12:15 | Working Lunch – Strategic Planning Small Group Work and/or Ad Hoc Committee Work   |                            |

1:00 Better Together NASDSE Presentation  
Laura Barrett  
Terry Houlton  
Steve Milliken  
Amy Rhone

2:00 NDE Special Education Office Overview - Results Driven Accountability  
Robyn Gonzales  
Kelly Wojcik

“OSEP is committed to implementing a results-driven accountability framework that leads to increased state and local capacity to improve results and functional outcomes for children with disabilities.”

***Please feel free to address personal needs as no formal break will take place in the afternoon.***

2:45 SEAC Logistics and Information Updates Mark Draper

3:00 Adjourn Julie Czepa

#### Next Meeting Dates

Thursday, January 16, 2019

Thursday, April 30, 2019

#### NE SEAC Executive Committee Members

Julie Czepa, Chair (2019-2020)

Terry Houlton, Chair Elect (2020-2021)

Open - 2021-2022 Representative for Exec Comm, to be elected in November 2019

Open – 2022-2023 Representative for Exec Comm, to be elected in November 2019

Mark Draper, SEAC Facilitator

Amy Rhone, Assistant Director

#### Upcoming Conferences

Para Educator Conference – November 19, 2019 – Kearney, NE

ASN Peers Training – December 9, 2019 – Grand Island, NE

<https://autismnebraska.org/home-2/peers-social-skill-series-and-community-events/>

\*Items requiring Council action

\*\*Lunch is provided for SEAC members and scheduled presenters

\*\*\*Per the SEAC Operating Procedures – opportunity for public comment if requested in advance

For more detailed information on SEAC Meetings, Agendas and Minutes visit:

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NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
*An advisory panel providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.*

Embassy Suites  
 1040 P Street  
 Lincoln, Ne

**January 16, 2020**

|              |   |                            |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>8:00</b>  | <b>Registration</b>   |                            |
| <b>8:30</b>  | <b>Welcome</b>  | Mark Draper<br>Julie Czepa |
| <b>8:45</b>  | <b>Welcome/Ice Breaker Activity</b>   | Mark Draper                |
| <b>9:00</b>  | <b>Council Business</b>   | Julie Czepa                |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Meetings Law Announcement</li> <li>• Approval of January 16, 2020 Agenda*</li> <li>• Approval of November 14, 2019 Minutes*</li> <li>• Public Comment</li> <li>• Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li> <li>• Ad Hoc Project Update</li> <li>• NASES Update</li> <li>• SEAC Member Updates/News/Sharing</li> </ul> |                            |
| <b>9:30</b>  | <b>Legislative Update</b>   | Mike Dulaney               |
|              | LB147 – Overview of the Bill and General Update   |                            |
| <b>10:15</b> | <b>Technical Assistance Center - Westat</b>   | Tom Monk                   |
|              | IDEA Disproportionality and Significant Disproportionality Regulations<br>Break During Session  |                            |

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) has three distinct requirements around equity: Disproportionate Representation, Significant Discrepancy, and Significant Disproportionality. In March 2019, the federal court ruled that the U.S. Department of Education cannot delay implementation of a policy intended to draw closer attention to minority over-representation in special education under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The national TA Center, Westat will review federal regulations and methodology to be used moving

forward with Nebraska Districts as well as the technical assistance and guidance that will be provided beginning 2020.

- 12:00 Working Lunch\*\***  
Ad Hoc Work Group  
Behavior/SEL Work Group (possible + Delta activity)
- 1:00 Restraint and Seclusion** Amy Rhone  
(Survey Results/Policy Brief) K-12 Engagement Project
- 2:00 NDE and Office of Special Education Office Team Reports** Steve Milliken  
**Targeted Support for Improvement and ATSI (ESSA)** Lane Carr
- 3:00 Adjourn** Julie Czepa

\*Items requiring Council action

\*\*Lunch is provided for SEAC members and scheduled presenters

\*\*\*Per the SEAC Operating Procedures, opportunity for public comment is requested in advance

**Next Meeting Date: April 30, 2020**

**Upcoming Conferences:**

Transition Conference – February 18-19, 2020 – Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP) – April 30 – May 2, 2020 – Younes Conference Center, Kearney, NE

**NE SEAC Executive Committee Members**

Julie Czepa Chair (2019-2020) Parent

Linda Safranek, Chair Elect (2020-2021) Parent/Educator

Terry Houlton, Chair Elect (2021-2022) Millard Schools, Omaha

Kasey Alexander, Chair Elect (2022-2023) Educator

For more detailed information on SEAC Meetings, Agendas and Minutes visit:

<https://sites.google.com/education.ne.gov/seac/home>

## NEBRASKA SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

An advisory panel providing policy guidance to the Nebraska Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

***Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting will be held via Zoom from 9 a.m. to noon, as we have clarified our ability to host a SEAC “distance” meeting due to Nebraska Governor Ricketts release from the face to face requirements from the public meetings act.***

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://educationne.zoom.us/j/305514050>  
Meeting ID: 305 514 050  
**April 30, 2020**

**9:00 Zoom Meeting Begins**

**9:05 Welcome**

Mark Draper  
Julie Czepa

**8:45 Explanation of Zoom Meeting**

Amy Rhone

**9:00 Council Business**

Julie Czepa

- Open Meetings Law Announcement
- Approval of January 16, 2020 Agenda\*
- Approval of November 14, 2019 Minutes\*
- Public Comment\*\*
- Notice of Conferences/Meetings
- Ad Hoc Project Update
- NASES Update
- SEAC Member Recognition/Updates/News/Sharing
- Update on The Office of Special Education - Structure

**9:30 NDE/OSEP Response to COVID 19 and School Closures in Nebraska**

Amy Rhone

**10:30 NDE and Office of Special Education Office Team Reports**

Amy Rhone

**Noon Adjourn**

Julie Czepa

**\*Items requiring Council action**

**\*\*Per the SEAC Operating Procedures, opportunity for public comment is requested in advance**

**Next Meeting Date: Late Summer, 2020**

**NE SEAC Executive Committee Members**

Julie Czepa Chair (2019-2020) Parent, Papillion, NE

Linda Safranek, Chair Elect (2020-2021) Parent/Educator, Omaha, NE

Terry Houlton, Chair Elect (2021-2022) Director of Special Education Millard Schools, Omaha, NE

Kasey Alexander, Chair Elect (2022-2023) Educator, West Point Schools, West Point, NE

For more detailed information on SEAC Meetings, Agendas and Minutes visit:

<https://sites.google.com/education.ne.gov/seac/home>

## **UNDERSTANDING THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FUNCTIONS UNDER IDEA**

All Council activities should relate to one or more of the functions

1. Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities. CFR 300.169(a)
  - a. Training educations on working with children with Autism
  - b. Students not being adequately served in juvenile and adult correctional facilities
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. CFR 300.169(b)
  - a. The federal law is reauthorized and the State makes revisions to their regulations
3. Advise the State in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under Section 618 of the Act. CFR 300.169(c) \*Grown the most since 2004
  - a. The SEA is reviewing and refining APR improvement strategies
  - b. Upon completion of a State and school district drill down, it was concluded that students with disabilities had lower graduation rates than students without disabilities.
4. Advise the State in developing corrective action plans to address finding identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act. CFR 300.169(d)
  - a. The State has just experienced an OSEP Visit and was found to be in noncompliance on various fiscal issues.
5. Advise the State in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. CFR 300.169(e)
  - a. The SEA is proposing a new MOU with the Department of Corrections
  - b. The SEA is revising its MOU with the Department of Health
6. The SEA, after deleting personally identifiable information must
  - Provide the Advisory Council with the DPH findings and decisions and
  - Make those finding and decisions available to the public. CFR 300.513(d) & 300.514(c)
  - a. DPH decisions identify consistent issues.
  - b. The SEA has experienced a spike in DPHs
7. Waiver of non-supplant requirement. State must consult with the Advisory Council regarding provisions of FAPE. CFR 300.164(c)(4)
8. States retain discretion to determine the risk ratio threshold above which disproportionality is significant so long as that threshold is reasonable and based on advice from their stakeholders, including their State Advisory Councils. 34 CFR 600.647(b)(iii)(A)



## 2020-2021 SEAC MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, located at 1040 P Street in Lincoln, Nebraska.

September 17, 2020 – cancelled due to Covid-19

December 10, 2020

March 18, 2021

May 6, 2021

Further information regarding SEAC or this report may be directed to Mark Draper at [markcdraper@gmail.com](mailto:markcdraper@gmail.com).