

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT



2018-2019



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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

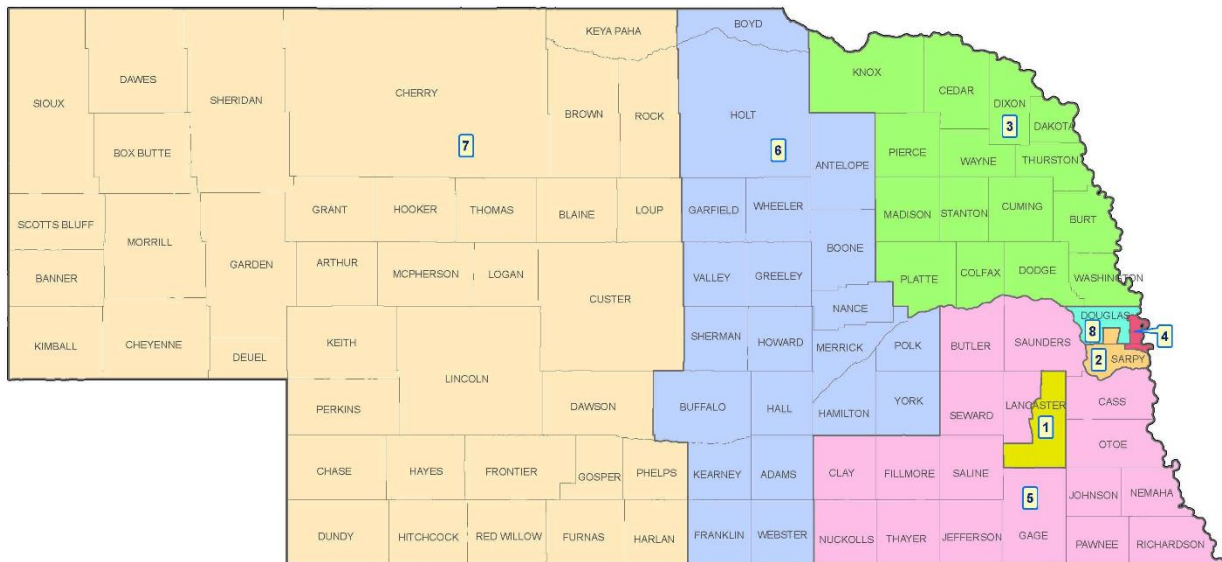
Leslie Galloway  
Recorder

### STATE BOARD MEMBERS

DISTRICT

Patsy Koch Johns		1
Lisa Fricke		2
Rachel Wise		3
John Witzel	President	4
Patricia Timm		5
Maureen Nickels	Vice 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 my pleasure to serve as a member of the Nebraska Department of Education's (NDE) Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) these past four years, which also included the opportunity to provide leadership on the Executive Committee and take my turn as Chairperson this past year. I joined SEAC soon after moving from Kearney to Lincoln to take a job as the Executive Director for the Nebraska Council on Developmental Disabilities, which was a huge period of transition for me professionally and personally. I have lived experience as a parent of a 25 year-old son with autism who received special education services from kindergarten through transition services, and I can identify with the emotions and concerns that other parents experience. When my son turned 21, my husband and I were fortunate to receive help from our Kearney "village" of supports to navigate the complex, overwhelming, and daunting transition process into adult developmental disability services. As a member of SEAC, I have been able to share my experiences both as a parent and as a professional advocate to help improve special educational services for children of all ages.

Nebraska's Special Education Advisory Council membership consists of parents, individuals with disabilities, professionals, and administrators who work collaboratively to address unmet educational needs of children and youth with disabilities. With a collective voice, SEAC members advise the Department in developing and implementing policies to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities statewide. And just as students grow, develop, and face transitions, SEAC also has experienced transition in administrative leadership, coordinators, and membership during my tenure.

I want to thank the NDE Special Education administrators and staff for doing an exceptional job sharing a vast amount of information and data outcomes with SEAC members. Their willingness to help all members, especially the parents, understand this information in order to fully participate in discussions is invaluable. SEAC input is taken seriously by NDE, which helps influence educational policies and practices statewide.

Transitions in statewide programming have also taken place. In recent years, SEAC has learned more about the Department of Education's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) initiative. This framework promotes an integrated system connecting general education and special education, along with all components of teaching and learning, into a high quality, standards-based instruction and intervention system that is matched to a student's academic, social-emotional and behavior needs. This approach promotes inclusion and integration of all students, as professionals pursue common goals rather than operating out of silos of different perspectives. Instead of focusing on the label of "special education students," MTSS makes it possible for general and special

education educators to recognize that they are serving all students, bridging the behavior world with the academic world to encourage an inclusive education model.

As members brainstormed recommendations in 2018-2019 for new SEAC priorities, it became evident that MTSS provides a foundational component. Some common priority themes include supporting a systemic approach to address each student's social and emotional learning needs by improving school-wide processes and resources related to core behavior practices, such as de-escalation techniques, PBIS (positive behavioral intervention and supports), and trauma informed care. With proper behavior supports, students are better able to learn and thrive.

Transitions can also bring positive changes and improvements. With prompting from parent member Amy Bonn, SEAC formed an ad hoc committee this year to begin addressing the readability of Nebraska's Procedural Safeguards and Parental Rights document. Committee members gathered in March to review what other states have been doing and developed a tentative outline of changes. They have also reached out to several state organizations, parents, and educators to ask for feedback. The completed draft document will be shared at the September 2019 SEAC meeting, and I am excited to see how this change in Nebraska's special education system will empower parents.

I want to thank the SEAC members for their collaboration, commitment, and dedication to improving the lives of students with disabilities receiving special education services. There is still a lot of work to continue, yet I am confident essential groundwork occurred throughout the 2018-2019 year making it possible to truly bring positive changes.

Best Regards,



Kristen L. Larsen



## 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.



2018-19 Executive Committee (L-R) Terry Houlton, Julie Czepa, Brian Wojcik, Kristen Larsen, 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.



Terry Houlton Addressing SEAC, with Amy Bonn seated



## 2018-2019 SEAC MEMBERSHIP

	TERM EXPIRATION	
<b>Kasey Alexander</b> <i>i, ii</i> Wisner	2019	<i>State Board District 3</i> <a href="mailto:kpestel@igators.org">kpestel@igators.org</a>
<b>Ann Auten</b> <i>i, iii</i> Blue Hill	2020	<i>State Board District 5</i> <a href="mailto:cauten@hastings.edu">cauten@hastings.edu</a>
<b>Laura Barrett</b> <i>§, v</i> Gering	2022	<i>State Board District 7</i> <a href="mailto:lbarrett@esu13.org">lbarrett@esu13.org</a>
<b>Paul Bohn</b> <i>iv</i> Papillion	2020	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:pbohn@paplv.org">pbohn@paplv.org</a>
<b>Amy Bonn</b> <i>§, i</i> Papillion	2022	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:amykbonn@gmail.com">amykbonn@gmail.com</a>
<b>Adia Brightman</b> <i>v</i> Omaha	2021	<i>State Board District 4</i> <a href="mailto:adia.brightman@gmail.com">adia.brightman@gmail.com</a>
<b>Julie Czepa</b> <i>†, i</i> Papillion	2020	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:julie.czepa@gmail.com">julie.czepa@gmail.com</a>
<b>Jeremy Ekeler</b> <i>i, vii</i> Lincoln	2020	<i>State Board District 1</i> <a href="mailto:jeremy-ekeler@cdolinc.net">jeremy-ekeler@cdolinc.net</a>
<b>Kris Elmshaeuser</b> <i>§, i, v</i> Waverly	2022	<i>State Board District 6</i> <a href="mailto:kris.elmshaeuser@centennialbroncos.org">kris.elmshaeuser@centennialbroncos.org</a>
<b>Kristin Flott</b> <i>§, i, iv</i> Omaha	2022	<i>State Board District 4</i> <a href="mailto:tkflott@cox.net">tkflott@cox.net</a>
<b>Barb Gentrup</b> <i>§, i, ii</i> Ravenna	2022	<i>State Board District 6</i> <a href="mailto:barb.gentrup@gibbonpublic.org">barb.gentrup@gibbonpublic.org</a>
<b>Terry Houlton</b> <i>†, §, v</i> Omaha	2022	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:thoulton@mpsomaha.org">thoulton@mpsomaha.org</a>
<b>Samantha Jacobson</b> <i>i, viii</i> Lincoln	2021	<i>State Board District 5</i> <a href="mailto:sammy.201213@gmail.com">sammy.201213@gmail.com</a>

## 2018-2019 SEAC MEMBERSHIP (CONT.)

	TERM EXPIRATION	
<b>Kami Jessop</b> §. v <i>Omaha</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 8</i> <a href="mailto:jessop.kami@westside66.org">jessop.kami@westside66.org</a>
<b>Mary Jorgensen</b> §. i <i>Omaha</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:maryjorgensen@fnni.com">maryjorgensen@fnni.com</a>
<b>Tom Kadavy</b> §. i <i>Lincoln</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 1</i> <a href="mailto:tkadavy@tenneco.com">tkadavy@tenneco.com</a>
<b>Seamus Kelly</b> i <i>Omaha</i>	2019	<i>State Board District 8</i> <a href="mailto:seamus.3668@gmail.com">seamus.3668@gmail.com</a>
<b>Renee Kiernan</b> i <i>Papillion</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 2</i> <a href="mailto:rkiernan123@gmail.com">rkiernan123@gmail.com</a>
<b>Tracey Kovar</b> §. vii <i>Omaha</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 4</i> <a href="mailto:tlkovar@archomaha.com">tlkovar@archomaha.com</a>
<b>Kristen Larsen</b> †. ‡. vi <i>Lincoln</i>	2019	<i>State Board District 1</i> <a href="mailto:kristen.larsen@nebraska.gov">kristen.larsen@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Bryanna McAuley</b> §. i <i>Bellwood</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 5</i> <a href="mailto:Dc20McAuleyb@dcscouts.org">Dc20McAuleyb@dcscouts.org</a>
<b>Matthew McNiff</b> §. i, vii <i>Beatrice</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 5</i> <a href="mailto:mmcniff@esu5.org">mmcniff@esu5.org</a>
<b>Heidi Reelfs</b> ii, vi <i>Council Bluffs, IA</i>	2020	<i>State Board District 4</i> <a href="mailto:heidi.reelfs@unmc.edu">heidi.reelfs@unmc.edu</a>
<b>Linda Safranek</b> i, ii <i>Bennington</i>	2021	<i>State Board District 8</i> <a href="mailto:lmsafranek@gmail.com">lmsafranek@gmail.com</a>
<b>Graciela Sharif</b> i, vi <i>Omaha</i>	2021	<i>State Board District 8</i> <a href="mailto:gsharif@pti-nebraska.org">gsharif@pti-nebraska.org</a>
<b>Johanna Taylor</b> §. iii <i>Lincoln</i>	2022	<i>State Board District 1</i> <a href="mailto:johanna.taylor@unl.edu">johanna.taylor@unl.edu</a>

## 2018-2019 SEAC MEMBERSHIP (CONT.)

	TERM EXPIRATION	
<b>Allison Wilson</b> §. ix <i>Lincoln</i>	2021	<i>State Board District 1</i> <a href="mailto:allison.wilson@nebraska.gov">allison.wilson@nebraska.gov</a>
<b>Marie Wohlers</b> <sup>i</sup> <i>Crawford</i>	2019	<i>State Board District 7</i> <a href="mailto:mmwohlers@gmail.com">mmwohlers@gmail.com</a>
<b>Brian Wojcik</b> †. i. iii <i>Kearney</i>	2021	<i>State Board District 6</i> <a href="mailto:wojickbw@unk.edu">wojickbw@unk.edu</a>

### OTHER ASSOCIATES

<b>Mark Draper</b>	<i>SEAC Facilitator</i>
<b>Leslie Galloway</b> <i>NDE</i>	<i>SEAC Recorder</i>

† SEAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE      ‡ SEAC SPEAKER & CHAIR      § NEW OR REAPPOINTED MEMBER

**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 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.

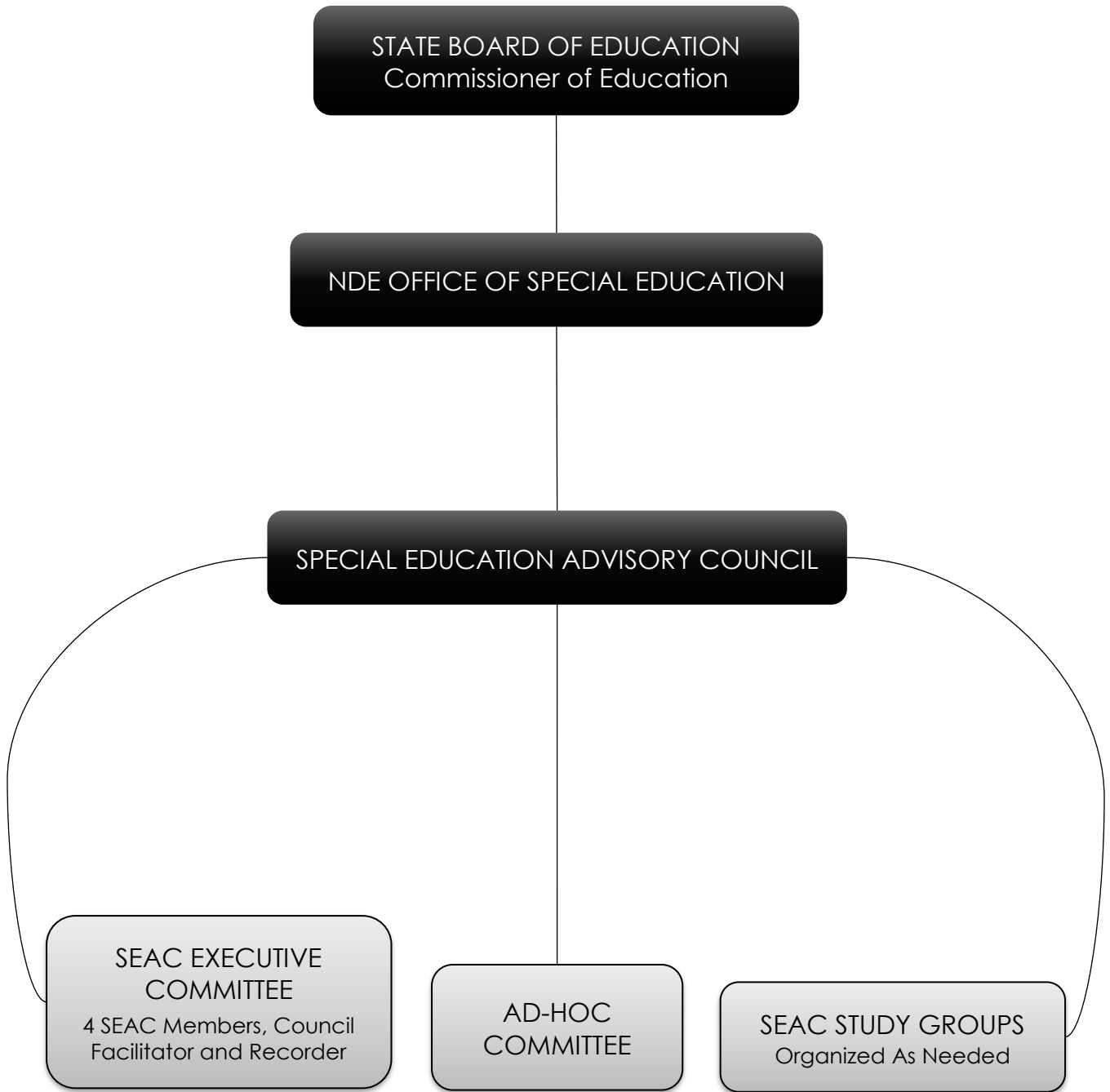
## SEAC PRIORITIES

2018-19

*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 the 2015-16 through 2017- 18 SEAC priorities and review/refine priorities in 2019-20:*

- Continue to review the Targeted Improvement Plan (TIP) Process implemented to improve results for students with disabilities.
  - Impact Area 1: Improving Academic Achievement, Functional Outcomes and Child Outcomes in Natural and Inclusive Environments
  - Impact Area 2: Improving Communication and Relationships Among Families, Schools, Communities and Agencies
  - Impact Area 3: Improving Transitions from the Early Development Network to Preschool and School to Adult Living
- Continue 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.
- Continue to review and advise the Nebraska Department of Education regarding the development and implementation of the State Systemic Improvement Plan.
- Continue to monitor state and federal legislation, including the Reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to assure the linkage between ESEA and IDEA.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL STRUCTURE



## **REVIEWING THE WORK OF SEAC 2018-2019**

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 Council met on: September 13, 2018, December 13, 2018, March 21, 2019 and May 2, 2019. All meetings were held in Lincoln, NE.

The 2018-19 SEAC year began on September 12th, with an orientation training session for new members joining the Council. This activity was conducted by Norm Ames, Associate Director of the Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education Center (TAESE) at Utah State University. New Council members reviewed the SEAC Priorities and received overviews of Nebraska's State Performance Plan and the Annual Performance Report.

At the September 13th meeting, Associate Director Ames assisted the Council in identifying potential priority areas for a renewed SEAC strategic focus. SEAC members identified numerous topics including, but not limited to, the following: Seclusion and Restraint, Data, Parent Involvement, Local and State Policy, Transition, Assistive Technology, Supports Provided to Students, Suspension and Expulsion, Social Emotional Health/Behavior, Dyslexia, Service Delivery Models, MTSS Implications, Alternative Placements and Parental Rights. It was agreed that these areas be reexamined and prioritized for future focus (which was completed at the December 2018 and May 2019 meetings).

Throughout the year, SEAC reviewed prior to, or at each meeting, the progress on SEAC Committees, their initiatives and activities:

In the 2019-2019 year, the council approved a proposal from New council member Amy Bonn to examine the viability of developing a more "parent friendly" guide to procedural rights that would accompany the distribution of parental rights documents provided to parents at any pertinent juncture throughout the MDT and IEP process. The committee was co-chaired by Brian Wojcik. This ad hoc committee worked throughout the year and will finalize their recommendation to the Council sometime in the 19-20 meeting schedule.

As part of the provided materials and agenda for SEAC meetings, information was provided regarding the following:

- Due process case reports and Nebraska legislation
- Annual Performance Report updates
- State Performance Plan updates
- School district determinations and public reporting status

## **REVIEWING THE WORK OF SEAC 2018-2019 (CONT.)**

- State Systemic Improvement Plan (Monitoring and progress of data and activities)
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

SEAC Priorities shaped the foundation for the construction of each SEAC Meeting Agenda. All SEAC business related to one or more of these priorities; with regular input from the NDE Special Education Office Administrators. Agendas for all SEAC meetings 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 13, 2018

- |       |  |                          |
|-------|--|--------------------------|
| 8:00  | Registration   |                          |
| 8:30  | Welcome<br>Kristen Larsen  | Amy Rhone                |
| 8:45  | Welcome/Ice Breaker Activity   | Mark Draper              |
| 9:00  | SEAC Orientation<br>Norm Ames, TAESE   | Amy Rhone                |
| 9:45  | Break  |                          |
| 10:00 | SEAC Orientation (Cont'd)  |                          |
| 11:00 | Council Business   | Kristen Larsen           |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Open Meetings Law Announcement</li><li>○ Approval of September 13, 2018 Agenda*</li><li>○ Approval of April 26, 2018 Minutes*</li><li>○ Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li><li>○ Review of 2018 Operating Procedures</li></ul> | Mark Draper<br>Amy Rhone |
| 11:15 | Preparation for New Strategic Plan   | Mark Draper<br>Amy Rhone |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Change from prior "committee" focus</li><li>○ New focus on emerging trends</li><li>○ Preparation for December 13, 2018 Activity</li></ul>  |                          |
| 11:30 | SEAC Committee Report: Executive Committee   | Kristen Larsen           |
|       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Listening Points for Strategic Plan Preparation</li><li>○ Orientation to Election of New Executive Committee Member</li></ul>  |                          |
| 12:00 | Working Lunch**  |                          |

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 AGENDA (CONT.)

- |      |   |                                       |
|------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1:00 | NDE Special Education Office Team Reports |                                       |
|      | o Introduction of Staff                   | Amy Rhone                             |
|      | o Director's Report                       | Amy Rhone on behalf of Steve Milliken |
|      | o Part B Programming                      | Amy Rhone                             |
|      | o Early Childhood (Birth – 5)             | Cole Johnson / Teresa Berube          |
|      | o MTSS                                    | Amy Rhone                             |
|      | o Systems Alignment                       | Kelly Wojcik                          |
|      | o Data Systems                            | Robyn Gonzales                        |
|      | o Fiscal                                  | Greg Prochazka                        |
| 2:30 | SEAC logistics and information follow-up  | Amy Rhone<br>Mark Draper              |
| 3:00 | Public Comment***                         | Kristen Larsen                        |
| 3:30 | Adjourn                                   | Kristen Larsen                        |

\*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 Dates: December 13, 2018, March 21, 2019, May 2, 2019

Upcoming Conferences: November 8th and 9th... Omaha, NE: Tri-State Regional Special Education Law Conference

### NE SEAC Executive Committee Members

Kristen Larsen, Chair (2018-19) Nebraska Developmental Disabilities Council

Ann Auten, Chair Elect (2019-2020) Hastings College

Brian Wojcik, Chair Elect (2020-2021) University of Nebraska at Kearney

To Be Determined, Chair Elect (2021-2022)

### SEAC Agendas and Minutes

<https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/special-ed-advisory-council/>

## 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

DECEMBER 13, 2018

8:00	Registration	
8:30	Welcome Kristen Larsen	Amy Rhone
8:40	Opening Activity	Mark Draper
9:00	Council Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Open Meetings Law Announcement</li><li>○ Approval of December 13, 2018 Agenda *</li><li>○ Approval of April 26, 2018 Minutes *</li><li>○ Approval of September 13, 2018 Minutes *</li><li>○ Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li><li>○ Executive Committee Report</li><li>○ Operating Procedures Update</li><li>○ Public Comment – Agenda Location Change</li><li>○ Election of New Executive Committee Member *</li></ul>	Kristen Larsen
9:45	Review of Past SEAC Strategies Priorities	Amy Rhone
10:00	Low Incidence and Autism	Teresa Coonts
11:00	Transition	Alice Senseney
Noon	Work Lunch** <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ NDE needs for SEAC's future</li><li>○ Data</li><li>○ MTSS</li><li>○ Communication</li><li>○ Systems Alignment</li></ul>	
1:30	Prioritization Activity	Mark Draper

## DECEMBER 13, 2018 AGENDA (CONT.)

2:15	Directors Report	Steve Milliken
3:00	Public Comment	Kristen Larsen
3:30	Adjourn	Kristen Larsen

### Items Requiring Action \*

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

Per the SEAC Operating Procedures, opportunity for public comment is requested in advance \*\*\* Next Meeting Dates: March 21, 2019 and May 2, 2019

### Upcoming Conferences:

#### NE SEAC Executive Committee Members

Kristen Larsen, Chair (2018-19) Nebraska Developmental Disabilities Council

To Be Determined, Chair Elect (2019-20)

Brian Wojcik, Chair Elect (2020-21) University of Nebraska at Kearney

To Be Determined, Chair Elect (2021-22)

#### SEAC Agendas and Minutes

<https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/special-ed-advisory-council/>

## 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 relative to CFR 300.167.

### AGENDA

Embassy Suites  
1040 P Street  
Lincoln, NE

MARCH 21, 2019

- |       |   |                        |
|-------|---|------------------------|
| 8:00  | Registration  |                        |
| 8:30  | Welcome   | Kristen Larsen         |
| 8:40  | Opening Grounding Activity  | Mark Draper            |
| 9:00  | Council Business  | Kristen Larsen         |
|       | o Open Meetings Law Announcement  | Mark Draper            |
|       | o Approval of March 21, 2018 Agenda*  |                        |
|       | o Approval of December 13, 2018 Minutes*  |                        |
|       | o Welcome of New Member(s)  |                        |
|       | o Notice of Conferences/Meetings  |                        |
|       | o Public Comment  |                        |
| 9:15  | SEAC Committee Report   |                        |
|       | o Executive Committee   | Kristen Larsen         |
|       | o Ad Hoc Committee  | Amy Bonn/Brian Wojcik  |
|       | o Google Doc Operating Procedures   | Mark Draper            |
|       | o <a href="https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SEAC-Operating-Procedures-2017.pdf">https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SEAC-Operating-Procedures-2017.pdf</a> |                        |
|       | o Proposed Changes  |                        |
| 10:00 | NeMTSS Update   | Amy Rhone & Jane Byers |
| 10:45 | BREAK   |                        |

## MARCH 21, 2019 AGENDA (CONT.)

- 11:00 SLD/Dyslexia Conversation Amy Rhone & Rhea Hochstein
- 12:00 Working Lunch\*\* - Small Group Operating Procedure Discussion
- 1:00 NDE Special Education Office Team Reports/Updates
- o Director's Report Steve Milliken
    - o Legislative Update
    - o Alternate Assessment Update
    - o SPP/APR Report Robyn Gonzales
    - o SSIP Status Kelly Wojcik
    - o Transition Update Alice Senseney and Theresa Hayes
    - o PEP Conference Update Mark Draper
- 2:00 Review SEAC Priorities from December 2018 Mark Draper
- 2:45 SEAC Member Updates
- 3:00 Adjourn

\*Items requiring Council Action

\*\*A Working Lunch is provided for SEAC members and scheduled presenter

*Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 2, 2018*

Upcoming Conferences: (Please contact Amy Rhone regarding attending as a SEAC member)

- o March 15-16, PEP Conference, Younes Conference Center, Kearney
- o April 4-5, ASD Network State Conference, Younes Conference Center, Kearney
- o June 20, MTSS Symposium, Literacy for All, Embassy Suites, Lincoln

SEAC Agendas and Minutes

<https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/special-ed-advisory-council/>

## 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 relative to CFR 300.167.

### AGENDA

Embassy Suites  
1040 P Street  
Lincoln, NE

MAY 2, 2019

8:00	Registration	
8:30	Welcome	Steve Milliken Kristen Larsen
8:45	Council Business	Kristen Larsen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Open Meetings Law Announcement</li><li>o Approval of May 2, 2019 Agenda*</li><li>o Approval of March 21, 2019 Minutes*</li><li>o Notice of Conferences/Meetings</li><li>o Executive Committee Report</li><li>o Operating Procedures Changes</li><li>o Status of LB 147 Letter of Opposition</li><li>o Ad Hoc Committee Update</li><li>o Public Comment</li></ul>	
9:15	SEAC Priorities Activity	Mark Draper
10:15	Break	
10:30	NE Association of Special Education Supervisors (NASES Update)	Terry Houlton
11:00	PBIS	Anne Oeth

## MAY 2, 2019 AGENDA (CONT.)

- 11:30 Working Lunch \*\* Recognition of departing members 2019 SEAC  
Membership Recruitment Discussion/Planning Mark Draper
- 1:00 NDE Special Education Office Team Reports/Updates Steve Milliken  
Amy Rhone
- Director's Report
    - Legislative Updates
  - Part B Updates Kelly Wojcik
  - Assistive Technology Program Update Rhea Hochstein
  - Medicaid in Public Schools Update Cole Johnson
  - Data Systems Robyn Gonzales
- 2:45 SEAC Member Updates
- 3:00 Adjourn

\*Items requiring Council action

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

Next Meeting Date: September 12, 2019

Upcoming Conferences: (Please contact Amy Rhone regarding attending as a SEAC member)

- May 3-4, PEP Conference, Younes Conference Center, Kearney
- June 20, MTSS Symposium, "Literacy for All", Embassy Suites, Lincoln
- September 4-6, MTSS Summit, "Better Together", Younes Conference Center, Kearney

SEAC Agendas and Minutes

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## **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)

## **2018-2019 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 12, 2019

November 14, 2019

January 16, 2020

April 30, 2020

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