

Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)

General Meeting April 11, 2016

MINUTES

Present

Kelly Meissner-Chair
 Dorie Flynn - by WebEx
 Kathy Barazotto
 Marjorie Guldan
 Ty Blackwell-by WebEx
 Neal Lichter
 Angela Smith
 Marjorie Guldan
 Martha Goodman
 Michelle Stewart – by WebEx
 Valerie Ashton-Thomas
 Leanne Carmona
 Rhonda Creecy
 Pamela Talley

Absent

Dawn Koplos
 Carol Strootman
 Yvonne Hu Cotto
 Dawn Koplos
 Sarah Wayland
 Brian Fausel
 Maura Taylor
 Kathy Kaufman
 Rachel London

Staff Present

Carmen Brown

Guests

Meeting began at 10:10am with Introductions of all members present and on the WebEx.

Topic	Minutes from March
Discussion	Dawn is on the minutes twice as being absent. Change year to 2016.
Recommendations	Minutes motion, seconded, and accepted with changes.
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	SECAC Discussion – Training Planning
Discussion	Discussion first of how some county SECACs are run - about process, budget plan, max # of members, etc. Reviewed the SECAC survey and the results from the counties who responded (1/2). Discussion that SECAC is not required by Federal Law, rather there are State requirements. Each county creates their own by-laws and processes. It is the responsibility of the school system to have the committee. Participation varies, as do the functions of each SECAC. There is reported confusion as to how these should/could operate, the importance of a local/parent partnership, the responsibility of each local department of Special Education, how to better engage parents, how to best spend money.
Recommendations	Roll out monthly or every other month training in the fall through in-person or webinar. Recommend that Director of SPED and SECAC Chair sit together to listen to webinar. Topics of interest: Spending, how are counties doing it, who has roles; clarification what is local direction and what is Federal; roles of SECAC-topics that are approved, what are the limits; marketing/communication; website links; compliance mandate vs/discussion-location of how to find guidance tools and requirements (include SECAC in the drafting of TA bulletins); recommendation to connect to local SECAC on MSDE website.
Action	Begin planning
Follow-Up	Develop workgroup for the creation of webinars for the 2016-2017 school year.

Topic	On-Line IEP/IFSP input
Discussion	SESAC held a broad discussion surrounding recommendations for the on-line IEP/IFSP moving forward. *Once a student reaches 15 years of age, each IEP meeting should begin with a discussion on transition. *The name of the student and the date should automatically follow that student throughout the IEP (name/date fields) to eliminate errors when overwriting another IEP. *MSDE should ensure a connection between the IEP and the portfolio. *MSDE should protect that the SPED designation does not appear on the portfolio. *When writing objectives, there should be ticklers requiring data be documented and explained in the narrative. *MSDE should develop protocols on the basis of data collection, clarity and consistency on how to document the data, how to obtain the data, and how to document the data with prompts for clarification. *There should be a clear demarcation of changes within fields from one IEP to another. *email address should be a required field along with preferred method of communication. *Graph the spark line. *Clarify expectation vs where the student is on the spark line. *MSDE should consider parent forums regionally to provide input on the IEP. *Consider a consolidated layout to limit redundancy. *Allow the font size to be altered for the reader. *Add a required permanent field that documents the basis for the coding. *Recommend IEP accessibility in Braille or using a reader. *If a student is between the ages of 14 and 21 – require a DORS discussion and require a connection to pre-employment services
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	McKinney-Vinto Homeless Education Act
Discussion	Valerie Ashton-Thomas presented PPT on McKinney-Vinto.
Recommendations	
Action	PPT emailed out to SESAC.
Follow-Up	
Topic	Legislative Update
Discussion	Carmen provided a summary of 2016 passed legislation related to Special Education.
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	Membership
Discussion	SESAC seeks participation from Directors of Special Education as well as additional family members. Marcella is reaching out to Directors, Pathfinders will reach out for an additional family member for SESAC.
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	

SESAC Mtg adjourned at 1:05pm.

Future topics: Testing in HS/and process for Bridge Projects