

Special Education State Advisory Committee (SESAC)

General Meeting May 16, 2016

MINUTES

Present

Kelly Meissner-Chair
 Angela Smith
 Neal Lichter
 Martha Goodman
 Christy Harris
 Rachel London
 Michelle Stewart
 Kathy Barrazotto
 Jamie Stoner
 Brian Fausel
 Rhonda Creecy
 Kathy Kaufman
 Pamela Talley
 Marcella Franczkowski

Absent

Dawn Koplos	Ty Blackwell
Carol Strootman	Dorie Flynn
Yvonne Hu Cotto	Dawn Koplos
Sarah Wayland	Maura Taylor
Leanne Carmona	Marjorie Guldan
Yvonne Hu Cotto	Valerie Ashton-Thomas

Present

Carmen Brown

Guests

Gretchen Rockafellow	Vittoria Aiello
Sue Rattman	Hope Meisinger
Amber Clark	Michelle Overton
Miguel Mercado	Megan Stewart-Sicking
Judith Lantz	Ann Sholtz
Jackie Wheatley	Sally Farr
Stacy Taylor	Cathy Jones
Marianne Estornell	Karleen Spitulink
Jean Considine	Barbara Murphy
Sarah Davis	Kennisha Austin
Elisa Hartman	Mary Gable – Speaker

Meeting began at 10:05am with Introductions of all present and on the phone.

Topic	Welcome by Chair – Kelly Meissner & Intro of meeting agenda
Discussion	
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	DSE/EIS Update by Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski
Discussion	Marcella provided a high level overview and update pertaining to trends, legislation and strategic implementation efforts for the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services. Each piece of legislation that impacted the Division was reviewed, as well as potential implications for the work of the Division. The development of a Technical Assistance Bulletin in response to the October Guidance on Dyslexia from the federal govt was discussed. In line with the strategic plan for the Division, Access, Equity and Progress, Secondary Transition, and Early Childhood initiatives were reviewed with brief discussions related to effective indicators, charting the life course, SSIP (State Systemic Improvement Plan), SEFEL (Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning), and RBI (Routines-Based Interview).

Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	Mary Gable, Division of Academic Policy & Innovation and Marcella Franczkowski provided an update on ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)
Discussion	Mary led a robust discussion on the implementation of the ESSA. She provided a comparison chart on the SEEA and subsequent re-authorizations and highlighted the objectives of the ESSA. She provided critical timeframes and dates: August 1, 2016 – ESEA Waivers expire, 2016-2017 Plan ESSA transition and provisions, 2017-2018 provisions of ESSA go into effect. The differences in ESSA were highlighted, standards were clarified, and accountability and indicators were discussed. Questions about 504 Plans, weighting, achievement, academic assessments, requirements for homeless and foster youth, as well as requirements for children of members of the armed forces were asked and answered, as were questions about the per pupil expenditures. There was subsequent further discussion about the per pupil allocation and how special education monies are included, Title I schools, consistently underperforming subgroups, targeted and comprehensive schools. Finally there was conversation on teacher qualifications and evaluations, 21 st Century Schools, and the work of the Department necessary to transition to ESSA. The Transition Team for MSDE was reviewed, recommendations were made for additions, the planned process was reviewed, and due dates were discussed.
Recommendations	Recommendations for consideration were: 1)In relationship to School Quality and School Success – The State should develop unique indicators for special education, and consider giving credit for moving special education indicators (ie transition – career readiness, internships, etc), 2)SECAC/SESAC representation on the transition team, 3) report by disability rather than by whole subgroups, 4) consider expanding the graduation cohort to more than 4 years.
Action	
Follow-Up	Carmen will send Mary Gable these recommendations.
Topic	Equity & Access Focus group – Kelly Meissner
Discussion	Kelly reviewed the Equity and Access Focus Group, her role on it, and the discussions so far.
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	
Topic	SESAC topics for SY 2016-2017
Discussion	Kelly facilitated a discussion with the group to solicit ideas for meeting topics for the upcoming school year. They included: SLD TA Bulletin, TA on IEP Goal Development & Reports on Progress, Law Education for IEP Leaders, transition – jobs – how to partner with agencies, standards/expectations, SECAC By-Laws – governing minimums and reports required for the State and SESAC, SECAC declining membership, ESSA follow-up, Parent Survey, Charting the Life Course COP - Jamie, Dayhab changes-employment options for all, Diploma options – 504 vs Special Ed, Home & Hospital for SPED.
Recommendations	
Action	
Follow-Up	The Executive Team will meet this summer to plan SESAC for the 2016-2017 SY.

Topic	Membership - Executive Nominations
Discussion	Kelly facilitated a discussion for executive nominations. Rhonda Creecy will be stepping down as vice-chair. Kelly is willing to remain in the Chair position for another term, but we will need to fill the vice-chair position. As Kelly is a provider agency representative, it would be best if the vice-chair is a parent of a child with disabilities. Kelly also addressed that membership applications are being accepted to fill any vacant positions and to address positions for terms that are expiring.
Recommendations	
Action	Carmen will email nomination forms for vote at the next meeting.
Follow-Up	

SESAC Mtg adjourned at 1:05pm.