

Special Education Advisory Council

The Special Education Advisory Council:

- Represents the interests of district learners with disabilities from birth through age 21.
- Advises the special education department on parent involvement, current issues, program development and department priorities.
- Serves as an advocate for high-quality special education programs
- Promotes communication among family, school and community.
- Members of the SEAC are appointed or elected by the special education director to voluntarily serve as representatives for a two year term, with the opportunity to reapply for additional terms. The council consists of approximately 20 members, including parents, community representatives, and school staff. At least 50% of the members are parents representing diverse disability areas.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Review and abide by SEAC bylaws, including confidentiality of person-specific information shared in meetings or in SEAC related activities.
- Attend scheduled meetings and sponsored parent events. To remain in current standing, members are required to attend at least 50 percent of the meetings scheduled in a year.
- Prepare for meetings: Read SEAC agendas, minutes, reports, and related materials. Provide requested input prior to meetings. Come prepared to discuss agenda items using relevant examples or supporting information.
- Participate in meetings: Provide requested feedback. Contribute ideas for solutions. Identify barriers or challenges experienced by other families; represent family concerns; focus on student needs as a group, rather than on individual student concerns. Share personal experiences as they relate to decisions regarding policies and procedures; ask clarifying questions.
- Encourage parent involvement and participation: participate in community awareness activities and information sharing with families in the district.
- Work collaboratively with the school district or cooperative's special education director as well as other school personnel and SEAC parent and community members to fulfill the local SEAC's purpose and mission.

Meeting Schedule:

- The council is scheduled to meet four times during the school year. Meetings are held from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the school district education center. In addition to the council meetings, SEAC sponsors and assists in a few other events during the year such as a Parent Transition Evening and Regional Trainings.

For more information about the SEAC, contact Laura Pingry-Kile at 952-556-6170 or Pingry-kilel@district112.org.