



Special Education Advisory Committee PTA/PTO Talking Points
LCPS Administrative Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20148
SEAC Sponsored Presentation: 6:00 – 7:10pm
Business Meeting 7:15 to 8:00 pm
Wednesday January 10, 2024 - Link: [Live stream](#)

Welcome: Liz Crotty, SEAC Chair

Presentation: *The Role of SEAC*, Presenter: Chiquita Seaborne, Ph.D., Family Engagement Specialist/Special Projects Coordinator, Office of Special Education Family Support and Special Facilities, Virginia Department of Education

Business Meeting

Office of Special Education Update-Dr. Paige Carter

LCPS is currently serving 9,922 students with special needs (which does not include 95 students recently found eligible for IEPs.) The current openings for SPED teachers are 33 in secondary schools and 15 in elementary schools. For Teaching Assistants, the vacancies are 13 in secondary schools and 3 in elementary. In October, the teacher vacancy postings were 68, so the Department has made progress in filling some positions.

There are a few ongoing audits in the Special Education Department. The reports of these audits will be made available publicly via submission to the School Board.

VDOE Cyclical Monitoring

Audits and classroom observations are still being conducted, with a report expected in 90 days.

Internal Staffing Audit

Audits are still underway throughout the Department, with a report expected to be delivered to the School Board in February.

Department of Student Services-Dr. Tedra Richardson

The Superintendent will present his estimate of needs to the School Board on January 16 (because of the snow day this meeting will be rescheduled.) His budget priorities include funding for staff compensation, retention, and recruitment. The Dept. Of Student Services budget presentation of needs on 1/25 will include increased funding for special education teachers and related service provider staffing, diagnostic and prevention services (including mental health) for students, increased funding for reading/math tutoring, new classroom materials, assistive technology devices and expanding LCPS cohort with George Mason University.

ALL IN VIRGINIA – State of Virginia's education plan designed to recover from pandemic-fueled learning loss and boost scores on SOLs. The plan allocates more than \$400 million of state funds to districts to help with tutoring, literacy and fighting chronic absenteeism. LCPS has contracted with two providers (University Instructors and Varsity Tutors) to provide tutoring services.

Questions on ALL in VA tutoring (answers provided by Tedra Richardson):

- Of the 100 tutors, will any be specifically identified as having skills and experience with students with disabilities?
 - No, all 100 will go through the same vetting process but are not specifically identified as having skills/experience with students with disabilities.

- Do we have Service Level Agreement or Objective: maintaining a level of staffing to ensure continuity for tutoring services?
 - University Instructors has assured us that we will receive 100 tutors, and they will meet regularly with principals/designees to monitor tutors' performance. They have protocols for handling tutors whose performance is not acceptable.

New Business

Policy and Compliance Subcommittee –The Subcommittee made no recommendations to Policy 8310 Theatrical Presentations or Policy 8360, School Publications.

Did You Know? By Erin Roselle-Poe, Did you know that there are other related services (other than speech and OT) that may be required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education services? Please see the attached list.

SEAC Reports and Updates

SEAC Chair Report

- The Chair reported hearing concerns from the public about the VA All In Tutoring program, including concerns that because tutoring is being implemented on a school-by-school basis and not consistently throughout the county, that some schools are telling parents that special education students do not qualify for tutoring because they receive specialized instruction in either reading or math, also that some schools only provide tutoring during school day, will alternative options be available?
- After talking to several SEAC members, the Chair reported hearing concerns about the difficulty in viewing data collection that supports their student's IEP goals, including that a parent/guardian must set up a meeting at the school, you can't take copies home but only take pictures and it is difficult to ask questions when the data is not provided in advance of meetings. In-person meetings are inequitable for family members who cannot take off of work. Members feel the process needs to be improved.
- Other concerns include parents looking for more reverse inclusion, full-day preschool programs.

2024 SEAC Awards -The Awards Ceremony will be held June 5th at 6:30 p.m. at Rock Ridge High School. The Chair strongly encourages all SEAC members and PTA/PTO representatives to get involved in helping to make this event a success.

SEAC Vice Chair of Membership reports that SEAC has 72 PTA/PTO representatives, 24 schools are not currently represented. SEAC has 18 voting members with 3 open memberships.

Subcommittee Reports:

Meaningful Inclusion Subcommittee- The playground report is ongoing with surveys sent to LCPS teachers this week. When those are received the Subcommittee will submit a full report to SEAC. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, at 6:00 p.m.

Specialized Reading and Math – Subcommittee continues to review provisions of the K-2 for Literacy Act. Reviewed how many Orton-Gillingham LCPS staff have been trained: 489 elementary, 67 middle school, 40 high school. The Subcommittee is continuing to review how read-aloud accommodations for SOLs are handled. The next meeting will be held virtually on 1/23/24 from 5-6:00 p.m.

Transition – The Subcommittee will hold work sessions with LCPS staff on January 24, March 5, and May 22 in Room 104G from 9:30-11:30 am. The first work session will be on SchoolLinks. Two members of the Subcommittee advocated to the School Board to add that all high schools be equipped with independent living labs as a line item in the capital improvements funding. The School Board voted to direct the school system to look into this further to establish funding needed.

SEAC Awards Planning – The Subcommittee reviewed the questions and criteria used in its nomination materials. Applications should be available in February.

Literacy and Math – Work sessions will be held on March 18 at 9:30 a.m. and May 13 at 9:30 a.m at the LCPS Admin building.

Parent Resource Services – The upcoming presentations are *Middle School Connection* 1/18; *United for Wellness Conference* 1/27 [Flyer](#); and *When the Bus Stops Coming* Feb. 3 at 8:30 a.m.

School Board Liaison, Dr. Kari LaBell – Expressed her sincere interest in serving as the SEAC liaison to the School Board. She reported that support for virtual distance learning for elementary school was mentioned at the most recent school board meeting.

SEAC will host a presentation on FOIA requirements in Virginia FOIA by Alan Gernhardt on March 6.

Next SEAC Meeting: February 14, 2024, Inclusive Practices and Meaningful Inclusion Presentation, Dr. Paige Carter, Director of Special Education, Specialized Instruction and Chris Bugaj, Assistive Technology Specialist.

SEAC Leadership:

SEAC Chair	Liz Crotty	SEACChair@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Planning	Jennifer DiDonato	SEACViceChairPlanning@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Membership	Carla Sola	SEACViceChairMembership@lcps.org
SEAC Vice Chair Communications	Shehnaz Khan	SEACViceChairCommunications@lcps.org
SEAC Secretary	Kathryn Rosenbrook	SEACSecretary@lcps.org
SEAC Past Chair	Sharon Tropf	SEACPastChair@lcps.org

SEAC Liaisons:

LCPS Staff Liaison, Director of Special Education	Dr. Paige Carter	Paige.Carter@lcps.org
School Board Liaison	Dr. Kari LaBell	Kari.LaBell@lcps.org
School Board Liaison, Alternate	Melinda Manfield	Melinda.Mansfield@lcps.org

Stay Connected: Facebook:

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WWW: www.loudounseac.org

Anyone needing accommodation for a disability to attend or take part in this activity should call (571) 252-1011.

Calls should be made five days prior to the activity when possible so that proper arrangements can be made.

If schools close for weather or other reasons, there will be no SEAC meeting.

SEAC is an advisory committee to the LCPS School Board

Did you know?

Did you know that there are other related services other than Speech and OT as those are the more frequently ones seen.

Other related services not on this list may be included if they are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education Sec 300.34

- **Assistive Technology Services** (wheelchairs, computers, devices etc.)
- **Audiology** (listening training, evaluation hearing loss etc.)
- **Behavior Therapy** (ABA)
- **Counseling Services** (guidance counseling, support groups)
- **Early Identification** (child find, screening clinics)
- **Music Therapy** (utilizing music to access educational needs)
- **Occupational Therapy** (activities to build daily living skills)
- **Orientation and Mobility Training** (using a cane to learn to travel safely etc.)
- **Parent Counseling and Training** (information about child development)
- **Physical Therapy** (exercise to improve large muscle development etc.)
- **Psychological Services** (psychological and educational testing)
- **Recreation** (education for leisure activities, after school programs)
- **Social Work Services** (linking to other community support, working with families, group counseling)
- **School Health Services** (catheterization giving prescribed medicine)
- **Speech/ Language Therapy** (identifying speech and language problems, activities to build language skills)
- **Transportation** (travel to and from school, travel in and around school buildings, buses with lifts)