



Special Education Advisory Committee PTA/PTO Talking Points

LCPS Administrative Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, Virginia 20148 SEAC Sponsored

Presentation: 6:00 -7:10 p.m., Business Meeting 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Wednesday, October 4, 2023 - [10-4-2023 Special Education Advisory Committee \(SEAC\) Meeting](#)

Welcome: Liz Crotty, SEAC Chair

Office of Special Education Community Connection Activity

Specialized Instruction Reading & Math Presentation- Margaret Ausberry - Special Education Supervisor for Specialized Instruction and Specialized Instructional Facilitators – Reading (SIF-Rs)

Link to slide deck -

https://www.lcps.org/cms/lib/VA01000195/Centricity/domain/32727/seac%202023-2024/overview/meetings/SEAC%20and%20LCPS%20Compiled%20Slide%20Deck%20for%20October%202023%20Meeting_Update.pdf

Business Meeting

1. **Public Comment** - Email from Anonymous expressing concern about the playgrounds for special education preschool and kindergarten students. All schools should provide equitable play areas for all students regardless of abilities but has learned that students in program classes for students with disabilities have been denied access to playgrounds that are utilized by general education students. Noted the unsafe and unkempt “courtyard” playgrounds currently available to students with disabilities.
2. **New Business**

SEAC voted to create a new subcommittee to prepare for the annual SEAC Awards.

SEAC voted to rename currently existing subcommittees: Specialized Instruction, Reading will now be Literacy and Math subcommittee and Specialized Instruction, Transition will now be just Transition.

Policy and Compliance Subcommittee presented review of 29 policies.

- The subcommittee proposed that the following policies be advanced with no recommendations, which was adopted unanimously. Policy 7640, 6730, 8435, 7717, 7726, 2430, 7040, 7712, 7714, 7562, 7628, 2160, 8205, 7030, and 5035, deletion of policies 5-1 and 5-17.

- **Policy Review: Policy 5080 CLASS SIZES**

SEAC is concerned with the move to increase class sizes in LCPS classrooms. The overwhelming body of evidence indicates that small class sizes lead to better educational outcomes. SEAC recommends that no change be made to the current class sizes for LCPS classrooms, and that the School Board focus on reducing class sizes in LCPS over time.

SEAC is also concerned that LCPS proposes holding the district to division-wide ratios rather than ratios determined by classroom or school. This creates the potential for inequity in a division as large as LCPS. For example, with a division-wide ratio of 20:1, a class in one high school could have 50 students while the same class in a different high school might have 10 students, with a wide-range of class sizes between those two that averages out to 20:1. SEAC recommends that the ratio be determined by school rather than division-wide.

Recommendations passed with one abstention.

- **Policy 6220 STUDENT SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE ON BUSES**

SEAC recommends changes to this policy to keep it in compliance with IDEA and Section 504; to change “discipline” to “behavior supports”; to allow all elementary school students and students with disabilities to receive bus training; and to remove the requirement that the bus driver be responsible for the discipline of students on the bus. SEAC would like to explore further how a bus driver is expected to handle crises on buses.

Recommendations passed unanimously.

- **Policy 8025 RIGHTS OF ADULT/ELIGIBLE STUDENTS**

SEAC is concerned about the terminology used in the policy to identify an “adult” student, an “emancipated minor” student, and a student over the age of 18 who chooses to allow a parent or guardian to share their educational rights. After extensive discussion, the policy was sent back to subcommittee for further review.

- **Policy 5060 TEXTBOOKS FURNISHED FREE**

SEAC recommended that students with disabilities should not have to pay additional costs to convert needed materials to a digital format.

Recommendation passed unanimously with amendment.

- **Policy 8140 STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES**

SEAC recommended that school absences related to a student’s disability should not result in an automatic withdrawal from LCPS.

Recommendation passed unanimously.

- **Policy 5170 TEACHING ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE AND OTHER RISK-TAKING BEHAVIOR**

SEAC recommended that the Health Education Program Instruction provided to elementary and secondary schools should be modified so students with disabilities can access the instruction

Recommendation passed unanimously.

- **Policy 2010 and 3120 LEGAL STATUS, AUTHORITY, POWERS, AND DUTIES OF THE DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**

SEAC recommended that in addition to tracking shortages of staff, LCPS should track Teacher

Assistant positions and related service providers such as speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and vision specialists.

Recommendations passed unanimously.

- **Policy 8250 BULLYING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

SEAC recommended that parents receive notice of any resolution of a bullying investigation. SEAC also recommended that as part of a school's appropriate response to bullying on any basis, the school should convene the IEP or Section 504 team to determine whether, because of the effects of the bullying, the student's needs have changed such that the IEP or 504 Plan is no longer designed to provide a meaningful educational benefit.

Recommendations passed unanimously.

- **Policy 8290 THREAT ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF SCHOOLS**

SEAC recommended that a special education dean, case manager, or other staff person with special education knowledge be included on the threat assessment team. SEAC also recommended that the team training cover topics critical to students with disabilities such as a Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA), Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP), Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), or Section 504 Plan.

Recommendations passed unanimously.

- **Policy 8115 INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY BE ADMITTED FREE**

SEAC recommended that the language in this portion of the Policy should more closely mirror the language from the VA Special Education Regulations' definition of "Age of eligibility" found at 8VAC20-81-10. It clearly states that a student with a disability whose 22nd birthday is after September 30 remains eligible for a free education for the remainder of that school year. (§ 22.1-213 of the Code of Virginia; 34 CFR 300.101(a) and 34 CFR 300.102(a)(3)(ii)).

Recommendation passed unanimously.

- **Policy 8650 STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE/RESPONSIBLE USE**

SEAC strongly recommended that this policy state that users of technology have a definite right or expectation of privacy under FERPA and other laws that provide privacy protection for certain student information. SEAC also recommended that LCPS should block any app or sites at a technical level because they do not have the authority to regulate the acceptable use of the State of Virginia's networks. SEAC further recommended that this policy be reviewed annually. and policies should be reviewed at least annually.

Recommendations passed unanimously with concern noted that if a computer is a part of a student's IEP then it is an afforded accommodation and not a privilege.

Because of the length of time the policy reviews required, the Business Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. with no further business discussed.

NEW ADDITION TO THE PTA/PTO DOCUMENT IS A SECTION TITLED: **DID YOU KNOW?**

Independent Educational Evaluations ("IEEs")

Did you know that parents who disagree with their child's special education evaluation have a right to request an Independent Educational Evaluation, or IEE? This is an evaluation done by a private evaluator paid for by LCPS. The parent has a right to one IEE each time the school Evaluates the student for special education. However, an IEE can consist of multiple tests--such as a Psychological and Educational and Speech and Assistive Technology assessment—all conducted as part of one IEE, often by multiple providers. The school is prohibited from limiting the tests done as part of an IEE to those tests already done by the school. So, if you feel like the school did not evaluate your child in all areas of suspected disability, you can request an IEE and have those missing areas assessed along with areas already assessed by the school. You can request an IEE in an eligibility or IEP meeting, or via email to your child's case manager.

October Observations:

October is Disability History and Dyslexia Awareness Month

Next SEAC Meeting will be November 1, 2023 with a presentation of the SEAC Annual Report, 2021-2022.

Upcoming Subcommittee meetings (open to the public):

Literacy & Math, Tuesday, October 17 at 5PM, virtual

All Literacy & Math work sessions are 9:30 to 10:30AM in room 104A at the LCPS Administration Building

» October 23, 2023

» December 4, 2023

» March 18, 2024

» May 13, 2024

Interested in attending? Let us know you are coming here! (<http://bit.ly/sdi-SEAC>)

Policy, Thursday, October 12 at 6:30PM, virtual

Transition, Monday, October 16 at 4:30PM, virtual

Meaningful Inclusion, Wednesday, October 18, at 6:00 PM, virtual

Agendas with links to join virtual meetings can be found on our SEAC website,

<https://www.lcps.org/Page/236175>

Upcoming Parent Resource Events:

SchoolLinks Information Workshop, Thursday, October 12 at 6:30PM, virtual

Specialized Reading and Math in Action: Engaging Strategies to Support Students at Home, Thursday, October 26 at 6:30PM, LCPS Administration Building

SEAC Leadership:

SEAC Chair	Elizabeth Crotty	SEACChair@lcps.org
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Anyone needing accommodations 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