



State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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Minutes
State Advisory Panel Meeting
April 21-22, 2016
Macon Marriott - Macon, Georgia

April 21, 2016 Magnolia A&B

Time	Events	
1:00 – 1:30	Welcome Panel Member Introductions and Update	Kyle Berry, Chair, and Pam Hunter Dempsey, Vice-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed members. Panel members provided input and comments they wished to share. <u>The following members were present:</u> Scott Bales Constance Barnes-Watson Kyle Berry Beth Burns Teresia Dunn Alicia Gant Juliet Hardeman Leslie Lipson Susan Moody Annette Murphy Mike Newton Colleen O’Toole Jeffrey Allen Laura Shyman Rita Barnes Kimberleigh Beard Joya Carter Hicks Michelle Constantinides Steve Derr Juree Hall Pam Hunter-Dempsey Jacquelyn Little Brian Mosley Ganesh Nayak Christina Brown Jevondolyn Redmond Patricia Sayeh Paul West
1:30 - 2:30	Indicator 8 Parent Satisfaction Survey	Anne Ladd, Family Engagement Specialist Division for Special Education Services and Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently paper surveys are mailed out to a sample of parent statewide in December and due in May • Online surveys are on the DOE webpage • Moving forward surveys will be given to the parents of every student with an IEP • Surveys will be provided in a broader format (not just electronic) • Number of questions will be reduced • Current survey results are on the DOE webpage

Time	Events	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent satisfaction has increased over the years • Districts with parent mentors have slightly higher parent satisfaction • Survey of the questions suggest that numbers 2,4 and 16 could be removed
2:30 – 3:00	BREAK & CHECK IN	
3:00 – 4:00	Student Forum	Georgia Academy for the Blind Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students from the Georgia Academy for the Blind shared their experiences at the Academy.
6:00 – 7:00	Dinner (provided) – Magnolia Ballroom	
7:00 – 8:00	Public comment	<p>Public Comments were limited to 5 minutes or less depending on the number of individuals signed up to provide comment. Written comments were received from 12 people. A summary of Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special education services are inadequately funded • Better recognition of dyslexia • Training for classroom teachers and administrators in dyslexia help all students read better • Because of limited funding and lack of understanding special education programs are denying services or removing them in the short term; everybody loses in the long term • Special education services are not extensive or as personalized as they could be • Having mental health professionals provide interventions to meet IEP goals • Services can be improved by demanding state university systems properly equip future teachers in elementary grades • Special education services in Georgia are inconsistent from county to county and from school to school • Services can be improved by ensuring that counties are not limiting students based on a diagnosis or label. Inclusion in some way should be a first try. • Inclusion seems to work well • Parent involvement seems to work well • Services can be improved by implementing specific reading specialists • Funding for children with autism and special needs

Time	Events	
		<p>seems to be adequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need better teaching training for students with reading challenges/disabilities • Services can be improved by evenly distributing resources throughout the state • Title one funding and parental involvement seems to work well for students • Additional teachers are needed to work with special needs students • Educate regular education students on students with disabilities • Improve services by monitoring students closely to ensure no bullying is occurring • Monitor teachers, bus drivers, coaches, etc. that work with students • Decrease the number of students per class

April 22, 2016 Magnolia A&B

Time	Events	
7:00 – 8:00	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (provided)	
8:00 – 9:15	Committee meetings	All committees met
9:15 – 10:00	Committee Reports	<p>Committees reported to panel on current activities and recommendations.</p> <p>Dispute Resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 dismissals; the issue of Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) was common • One due process resolution was reviewed since our last meeting. The case was a continuation of the Houston County case. The focus of this portion was identifying and constructing an appropriate educational plan for the student so that FAPE could be achieved. The LEA was required to pay for and support an extensive individualized plan. <p>Operating Procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes <p>Public Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve written public comments were received • Suggest electronic survey - move forward with survey

Time	Events	
		<p>monkey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change language in form (small change) • Automatic reply acknowledging receipt • Look at website • Add language to solicit public comment • Encourage districts to attend SAP and provide information <p>Family Engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the parent survey more widely available • Work with parent mentors and Title 1 • Educate parents of younger students on parent rights <p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made recommendations for 4 new members and 2 returning members for FY17 • Suggest exit survey of members rotating off panel
10:00 – 10:15	Break	
10:15 – 11:00	DOE Updates	<p>Deborah Gay, Director Special Education Services & Supports Georgia Department of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed the membership process for potential applicants – suggest that membership committee write out procedures for selecting SAP members • Legislative Updates that impacts education – the governor has not signed any of the education bills to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 364 sponsored by Lindsey Tippins amends Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the O.C.O.G Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary education, so as to revise provision relating to annual teacher, principal, and assistant principal evaluations; revise provisions relating to student assessments; mastery of reading by the end of third grade and mastery in basic math skills by the end of the fifth grade. ○ HB 614 –Videotaping bill sponsored by Valencia Stovall basically says a school system can pilot a program to allow video cameras in self-contained classrooms of special education students. No funds behind bill; directs the Department of Education to work with interested districts. ○ SB 355 – Student protection act provides for parental and medical reasons to excuse students from

Time	Events	
		<p>participating in federal, state or locally mandated tests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 959 – Dual enrollment – addresses what happens when a child is dually enrolled in higher education courses and still enrolled in high school and how it impacts end of course tests and participation rate ● PBIS – 1000 schools trained by FY17, staff working to begin Tier II interventions ● Increase in funding to 1.2 million building regional supports ● Charter Schools Strategic Status ● SSIP Report on the DOE’s webpage ● Project Aware – protocol for statewide Apex project
11:00 – 12:00	Planning	<p>Planning for 2016-2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Options regarding meeting format presented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Format stays the same (tighten agenda) ○ Arrive night before with full day and ½ on 2nd day ○ Combination of both ● Meeting was adjourned