

School Board Advisory Reports

2022 - 2023

Hanover County Public Schools

Special Education Advisory Committee

Chair: Jessica Collette

Staff Liaison: Diane Brown

Subcommittees:

- Accessibility and Curriculum
- Transition
- Inclusive Education/Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Bylaws, Communication, and Membership

Mission/Vision:

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) advises the local school division of unmet needs and assists the division in formulating plans for improving the performance of children with disabilities in the division's school and the community. We seek to promote educational excellence for students with disabilities by encouraging collaborative partnerships, supporting an inclusive educational environment, and highlighting recommended best practices that will prepare students for productive citizenship.

Activities, Speakers, and Accomplishments:

SEAC welcomed the following speakers to its business meetings:

- Dr. Michael Gill, Superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools
- Dr. Lauran Ziegler, Ms. Sarah Billups, and Ms. Candice Bowler, ILS: Special Education in Hanover County Public Schools presented on the topic of Reading for Students with Disabilities
- Ms. Lisa Winn, PBS Coordinator for Hanover County Public Schools presented on the topic of VTSS and PBS in Hanover.
- Ms. Tammy Burns, Deputy Director of the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) presented on "Transition".
- Ms. Katie Teller, Teacher of the Deaf, and Ms. Katy Wilde, Parent Resource Coordinator, both from Hanover County Public Schools presented on "I'm Determined".
- SEAC would also like to recognize the Passport to Fun Community Resource Fair hosted by the Parent Resource Center

Recommendation 1:

Description: The Parent Resource Center will compile resources for parents in order to offer a parent involvement seminar to increase parents' comfort level with IEP meetings.

Action Type:

- Modify existing practice

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 4: Identify, design, and implement systems that support a positive educational climate and community.

Objective 3: Strengthen family engagement.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Provide a forum. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Educate.

Recommendation 2:

Description: The Parent Resource Center will develop a panel of parents and school staff from various levels (Pre-K, elementary, middle, and high) to answer questions from parents regarding identification, IEP process, eligibility, and transition.

Action Type:

- Develop new practice

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 4: Identify, design, and implement systems that support a positive educational climate and community.

Objective 3: Strengthen family engagement.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Provide a forum. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Educate.

Recommendation 3:

Description: Special Education leadership will compile research-based recommendations for school-based teams to increase the involvement of students in their IEP process.

Action Type:

- Continue current practice (not a policy but a best practice that isn't formalized)

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 1: Provide high-quality and relevant instruction that prepares students to be life-ready, productive individuals.

Objective 3: Promote varied and rigorous learning experiences driven by student skills and interests.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Assist in planning.

Recommendation 4:

Description: The subcommittee recommends that we have a long range plan that includes training for transportation, cafeteria, instructional assistants, and elective/resource teachers. This recommendation supports the Virginia Inclusive Schools Planning Guide. The long term plan would need calendar days to support training for each group; calendar days to support the training may translate into additional paid days for training.

Action Type:

- Resources
- Continue current practice

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 3: Attract, develop, and retain a quality, student-focused workforce through mutual trust, open communication, and support.

Objective 2: Provide each employee with engaging, high-quality professional learning to build capacity and promote professionalism.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Participate in strategy formation. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Assist in interpretation.

Recommendation 5:

Description: Opening Doors Unlocking Potential (ODUP) is an annual, state-wide professional development institute for professionals and families who support students who are deaf and hard of hearing. For the past 17 years, ODUP has offered an in-person event, in Richmond, bringing together professionals and parents from across the Commonwealth of Virginia to engage in dialogue, discussion, and learning methods to strengthen academic outcomes for children who are deaf and hard of hearing. Participants can have a positive impact on a student's educational process by increasing their knowledge and skills regarding deaf education. The registration fee for a Virginia Public School professional is \$200.

<https://sites.google.com/vcu.edu/odup-2023/home?pli=1>

Hanover County Public Schools will send at least one staff member from their Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department to the ODUP conference annually, beginning with the 2023 conference. The attendee(s) will be responsible for attending sessions and gathering data on how to best support deaf/hard of hearing children and will report back to their team/staff by the beginning of the following school year.

Action Type:

- Resources,
- Study/Explore (analysis or research)
- Continue current practice
- Develop new practice

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 3: Attract, develop, and retain a quality, student-focused workforce through mutual trust, open communication, and support.

Objective 2: Provide each employee with engaging, high-quality professional learning to build capacity and promote professionalism.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Advise of unmet needs. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Assist in planning. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Participate in strategy formation. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Submit reports/recommendations. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Assist in interpretation. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Review the policies, procedures, and Part B application. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Educate.

Recommendation 6

Description: Allocate staff resources and funding for the expansion of the PEERS format to a wider audience to provide information and connection and build trust between families and school staff. Consider including additional support such as state agencies—DBVI, DDHH, Special Olympics, etc. This can also be used as a forum to provide information and resources with Hanover.

Action Type:

- Budget Request - Resources
- Continue current practice & expand current practice

Connection to Long-Range Plan:

Goal 4: Identify, design, and implement systems that support a positive educational climate and community.

Objective 3: Strengthen family engagement.

Connection to Advisory Board's mission, vision, goals, and/or plan: Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Assist in planning. Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Participate in strategy formation, Purpose of SEAC (Article II): Educate.

