

Alexandria Special Education Advisory Committee

SEAC 2022-2023 Scope of Work

The 2022-2023 Special Education Advisory Committee's (SEAC) Scope of Work includes numerous goals and objectives. The major purpose of SEAC is to provide an opportunity for parents and other school board appointees to have a voice in the way ACPS provides services to students with disabilities. As a committee, we are aligning our work with the ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan, Equity for All1. Our work encompasses many subcommittees that will focus on tasks, deliverables, and other action items to support the committee at large when advocating for students with disabilities within the division.

Role of SEAC

The SEAC role, as mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia, is to:

1. Advise the local school division of needs in the education of children with disabilities;
2. Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities;
3. Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the local school board;
4. Assist the local school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services;
5. Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the local school board; and
6. Participate in the review of the local school division's annual plan.

Areas of Focus for 2022-2023

I. Equity and Inclusion

ACPS Strategic goals alignment:

- Systemic Alignment
- Instructional Excellence
- Student Accessibility and Support
- Strategic Resource Allocation
- Family and Community Engagement

Background: As ACPS continues to recovery from the pandemic, it is opportune to reexamine how equity functions for students with special needs in our district. The SEAC Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee is tasked with understanding equity issues within special education in ACPS and advising the district.

Goal: SEAC, in consultation with its School Board Liaison, identified the academic progression of children with disabilities, as measured by testing data, compared with other student populations, as an equity issue for examination by this sub-committee. In looking at this issue, the sub-committee will examine, among other things, (1) areas of improvement or adjustment with respect to academic instructional approaches for children with disabilities and/or (2) areas of improvement or adjustment of communications to parents and guardians of children with disabilities to help families' support the academic development outside of school of children with disabilities. This sub-committee will determine its additional activities for 2022-2023 in consultation with ACPS leadership and the School Board. This sub-committee will also be guided by future recommendations that the 2021-2022 SEAC Equity and Inclusion sub-committee identified in the SEAC End of Year report.

Budget Impact: not yet known

II. Staff Recruitment, Retention, Training, and Expertise:

Background: ACPS has faced challenges with teacher and staff recruitment and retention as a lingering effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic Consistent with other school districts nationally. ACPS also requires teachers and staff with particularized training and experience to meet the needs of children with disabilities.

Goal: This sub-committee will gather information on ACPS's recruitment, retention, and training needs with respect to teachers and staff that provide instruction to children with disabilities. Based on that information, this sub-committee will identify additional tasks and projects relevant to staff recruitment, retention, and training relevant to children with disabilities.

Budget Impact: not yet known

III. Policies and Procedures

Background: The State of Virginia tasks SEAC with reviewing the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services before their submission to the local school board.

Goal: As the School Board reviews policies and procedures, the Director of Policy and Board Initiatives will forward to SEAC any policies and procedures related to students https://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/reports_plans_stats/special_ed_performance/division/2019-2020/spp-app/alexandria.pdf with disabilities; the SEAC School Board Liaison will also note issues of concern and bring them to the attention of SEAC. This year SEAC will focus on the policies and procedures relating to virtual instruction and return to in-person learning. We will also address other topics of concern if/when they arise.

Budget Impact: not yet known

IV. Budget & SEAC ByLaws

Background: Each year, SEAC reviews the proposed budget and, if warranted, provides input to the School Board regarding impacts on children with disabilities. SEAC has formed a subcommittee that will assist with the funding from division-wide to IDEA budget and work to create surveys and collect data from the committee to help support the budget process regarding students with disabilities. This committee will also analyze, review, edit, and present reviews to SEAC to ensure that ByLaws are updated and agreed upon within the committee.

Goal: Review the budget to provide recommendations on its impact on SWD. Additionally, ensure that the ByLaws allow a committee to form effectively and efficiently to support the ACPS division of students with disabilities.

Budget Impact: To be determined

V. Anne Lipnick Awards

Background: SEAC administers this annual awards program by soliciting nominations and selecting outstanding staff who serve SWD.

Goal: SEAC will select award winners.

Budget Impact: minor