



# Maryland SESAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## Special Education State Advisory Committee General Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2018

**Attendees:** Marcella Franczkowski-Assistant State Superintendent, Sheila Billups, Kathy Kaufman, Prakash Anthony, Leanna Carmona, Marjorie Guldán, Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Joyce Abbott, Neal Lichter, Valerie Ashton-Thomas, Elisa Hartman, Karleen Spitulnik, Martha Goodman, Pam Talley, Sally Farr

**Guests:** Rae Record, Terri Savage, Audri Levering, Karla Marty, Jeff Gladhill, Wendy Balda, Ken Huddock, Marlene Powell

**WebEx:** Dorie Flynn, Samantha Carter, Peaches Wilson, Miguel Reyes

**Staff:** Carmen Brown, Staff to SESAC

**Welcome/Introductions** were offered by Carmen Brown, SESAC staff, and Kathy Kaufman, SESAC Vice-Chair. Members were introduced in person and on the WebEx. Members had been informed via email previously, but were reminded, that Kelly Meissner, former SESAC Chair, has resigned her position at Parents' Place Maryland and has begun a new position as a Family Support Specialist at MSDE, DEI/SES. Kathy Kaufman, a parent and local school system employee, led a discussion related to the need for parent leadership within the SESAC, to increase membership, increase participation, and to offer guidance to Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski and the work of the Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services to benefit all students with special needs and their families. Kathy stated that she would remain on as an ex-officio member of the SESAC to continue to offer support, but that she, as a local school system employee, felt it was appropriate to withdraw from her leadership position on the committee, as well.

**SY 2018-2019 SESAC Leadership** discussion was facilitated by Carmen Brown and Kathy Kaufman. They summarized efforts throughout the summer to engage current members in leadership opportunities, outreach by Assistant State Superintendent Marcella Franczkowski asking local directors of special education for suggestions within their systems for parent leaders, and collaboration with Parents' Place Maryland and Maryland Coalition of Families to seek parent leaders within the special education community of families. Carmen Brown offered a nomination for Pamela Talley for Chair and facilitated the nominations of Leanne Carmona, also for Chair, Wendy Balda, Marjorie Guldán and Marlene as Co-Vice Chairs. The SESAC held discussions about the individuals nominated for leadership roles, the charge of the positions, and the benefits of electing multiple individuals to share the responsibilities of the positions. The SESAC voted to elect all in their nominated positions.

**Joint SESAC/SECAC Mtg** discussion was led by Carmen Brown and Kathy Kaufman. Previous plans and conversations were raised and the group voted to carry out a plan to invite ALL SECAC Chairs together for a meeting/training in the fall 2018 to facilitate discussion about responsibilities, collaboration, responsibilities, etc. The leadership team will guide this effort.

**Parent Survey Updates** were provided by Ken Hudock, Section Chief, Family Support and Dispute Resolution at DEI/SES. He facilitated a discussion to seek ideas to increase participation, to review current parent engagement efforts varying across the State, offered guidance on how to directly link to the Parent Survey on line and where to find the most current summary data on line, and discussed how local school systems use the data and comments to guide current practices.

**SY 2018-2019 IEP Updates** were provided by Karla Marty, Section Chief, Program Improvement. Karla provided a page by page review of the Maryland On-line IEP to highlight changes in effect as of July 1, 2018. She referenced appropriate statutory requirements for many of the noted changes. She summarized the technical assistance provided to local school systems to support implementation of the changes, and responded to questions regarding accommodations for testing.

Assistant State Superintendent, Marcella Franczkowski closed the formal portion of the meeting by reiterating the importance of the work of the SESAC to guide her to best support local schools systems to meet the needs of students with disabilities and their families. She thanked members for their dedication to the work, and applauded the new leadership.

**Public Comment** was allowed throughout the meeting and all parties present were offered the option to participate actively in the dialogue. No further comments were offered.

**Next Meetings:**            **January 17, 2019**  
   **10am - 1pm**

**March 21, 2019**  
**10am - 1pm**

**May 16, 2019**  
**10am - 1pm**