



Maryland SESAC

SPECIAL EDUCATION STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Special Education State Advisory Committee General Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2020
10:00am-1:00pm

Attendees: Leanne Carmona-Co-Chair, Pamela Talley-Co-Chair, Sue Rattman, Rachel London, Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Kathy Kaufman, Rachel Stoyanov, Jennifer Brekke-Miles, Kathy Barazotto, Tai Dillard, Jill Pierce, Neal Lichter, Wendy Balda, Elisa Hartman, Peaches Wilson, Karleen Spitulnik, Sally Farr

Guests: Teresa Forbes (parent of a child with disabilities)

Staff: Carmen Brown, Branch Chief, Interagency Collaboration, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services

Welcome/Introductions: Carmen Brown – staff to the Committee facilitated welcomes using a virtual platform, began the meeting, and ensured introductions of all present.

Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services Updates: Marcella E.

Franczkowski, M.S., Assistant State Superintendent provided a presentation regarding ongoing work of the MSDE and the DEI/SES in response to COVID-19.

She provided an overview of the CARES Act passed on March 27, 2020, funds to the states, including K-12 funds and formula grants. She reviewed discretionary funding included in the CARES Act, as well.

Marcella reviewed the current state of the budget in Maryland, and reiterated the Governor's budget freeze and the potential legislative impact of that.

She reviewed the MSDE website for COVID-19, shared resources on the MSDE webpage, as well as Technical Assistance Bulletins available on the DEI/SES page.

Marcella talked about recovery and what the process to guide a return to school may look like.

She offered a summary of the MSDE process for equitable standards and the Continuity of Learning Plan, review of requirements and requests for waivers.

She reviewed ESSA waivers and noted that IDEA has not granted Waivers.

Marcella discussed flexibilities offered in varying forms to provide students with disabilities and their families more access to services and supports to access education. She specifically discussed the flexibilities granted by the federal government to the Autism Wavier and those offered to local school systems, public agencies, and nonpublic schools for the provision of Medicaid reimbursable related services.

Marcella summarized the ongoing efforts by the DEI/SES to provide regional technical assistance in the wake of COVID-19, monitoring protocols, and support for nonpublic schools.

Finally, Marcella commended the DD Council and Parents Place of Maryland for their ongoing support of students with disabilities and their families and thanked them for their support during this period of time.

Certificate of Program Completion workgroup: Pam Talley has been the SESAC designee on the Certificate of Program Completion workgroup and provided an update on the work of the group. She reviewed the group process, the charge of the workgroup, and provided a summary of the discussions pertaining to the review of requirements and work to determine if changes are warranted to the Certificate of Program Completion Name and COMAR, and the develop of standards for endorsements to be added to current Certificate of Program Completion.

Public Comment: One member of the public was not in attendance but provided written public comment that was read aloud to the SESAC by Carmen Brown, staff to the SESAC relating to PGCPs.