Special Education State Advisory Committee
Joint SESAC/SECAC Meeting
Minutes
March 10, 2021

Attendees: Pam Talley – Co-Chair, Leanne Carmona – Co-Chair, Wendy Balda, Vice-Chair, Marge Guldan, Vice-Chair, Christine Klinefelter, Mike Benoit, Jeanne Saum, Dee Sapp, Susan Rodriguez, Elizabeth Proffitt, Mai Hall, Sarah Wayland, Tionah Glover, Kristi Fausel, Shaina D Custer Saturday, Susan Rodriguez, Sequaya Tasker, Gayland Carlisle, Troy Sampson, Nick Shockney, Bess Cropper, Jeff Gladhill, Bobbi Pedrick, Mary Ann Tomasic, Jessica Tawes, Karen Kimlel, Patricia A McDonald Komons, Katharine Lander, Wendy Balda, Joeleen Smith, Arnika Eskeland, Troy Keller, Angelique McKoy, Jeanne Erdley

Staff: Carmen Brown, Branch Chief, Interagency Collaboration, Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services (DEI/SES).

DEI/SES Updates: Carmen Brown opened the meeting, introduced the Co-Chairs and introduced Marcella Franczkowski, Assistant State Superintendent to provide an update on special education in the State of Maryland. She addressed: Reopening Schools-Federal and State Reopening Guidance; Maryland State Board of Education Updates on Assessments – Spring 2021 and offered information and a link to the United States Department of Education - Guidance to States on Assessing Student Learning during the Pandemic (February 22, 2021); Legislative Session 2021 Updates; DEI/SES Professional Development/Technical Assistance Model, including a discussion on regional liaisons and support and protocols for Local System process planning for compensatory education and recovery; information on the Maryland Parent Survey; an overview of the DEI/SES federal application for a State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG); and guidance and links to access resources produced by the DEI/SES for parents, educators, and stakeholders.

Breakout Groups: SESAC Subcommittee breakout groups were facilitated to receive further input and inform SESAC guidance for the Assistant State Superintendent. Breakout groups focused on the following questions: 1) Does the content of the recommendations reflect your county’s perspective? 2) Do the recommendations address your current challenges? 3) Do you have other recommendations/suggestions for consideration?

The SECAC Guidance group was facilitated by: Pamela Talley, Parent and SESAC Co-Chair, Prince George’s County and Leanne Carmona, Parent and SESAC Co-Chair, Anne Arundel County; Secondary Transition was facilitated by: Wendy Balda, Parent and SESAC Co-Vice-Chair, Howard County; and Family Friendly IEP Printout was facilitated by: Marge Guldan, Parent and SESAC Co-Vice-Chair, Carroll County. All group leads will report out at the May SESAC meeting with summary notes as the SESAC prepares to offer recommendations to the Assistant State Superintendent.

No guests were in attendance and no public comment was offered.