

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) Meeting

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
(DESE)

Date: April 8, 2025 **Time:** 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM EST **Location:** Virtual Meeting

Purpose of Meeting:

To meet as a State Special Education Advisory Panel to discuss issues that relate to our duties and provide advice relating to children and youth who are eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

**Please be advised that DESE does not authorize attendees to record or to use AI transcription tools during the meeting and DESE does not endorse any unauthorized transcripts created by third parties of its meetings*

Future SEAP Meeting Dates:

June 17th, 2025	September 16th, 2025	December 9th, 2025
9:00 AM – 12:30 PM	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Agenda

Opening | 9:00 - 9:15

Theresa Senio, Assistant Director SEPP, Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office &
Martha Daigle, Development Supervisor SEPP, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

- Roll call
- Review and approve today's agenda
- Recording and creation of minutes
- Old business
- Meeting procedures, regulation, and norms

DESE Updates | 9:15-10:30

Theresa Senio, Assistant Director SEPP, Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education &

Greg Tobey, Educational Specialist Supervisor, Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office

- Alternative Paths to Licensure
 - Opportunity for Advisory Panel Comment
- Additional DESE Updates
- Federal Updates
- OSEP Differentiated Monitoring and Supports (DMS) Update
- Special Education Determinations

Break | 10:30-10:45

Advisory Panel Work on Priorities | 10:45-12:05

To ensure sufficient time for each Panel priority, this meeting is only addressing the first three priorities. Review and discussion of the last three Panel priorities will occur at our next meeting.

Martha Daigle, Development Supervisor SEPP, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

- A request to discuss new rules and regulations presented at the state board of education meeting

John Copenhaver, Program Director, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)

- Discussion on how to address emerging priorities

Alex Langevin, Technical Assistance Specialist, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)

- Review and provide input for three Advisory Panel Priorities:
 - I. Resources to support teams' student-centered decisions (Related Council Priority: Student-Centered Instruction)
 - DESE – Update Panel on progress on this priority
 - Advisory Panel – Discussion & Recommendations

- II. Recruitment, retention and support/ Workforce (Related Council Priority: Building a Dynamic Multi-Cultural Workforce)
 - DESE – Update Panel on progress on this priority
 - Advisory Panel – Discussion & Recommendations
- III. Mental Health /Social Emotional (Related Council Priority: Safe and Inclusive School Communities)
 - DESE – Update Panel on progress on this priority
 - Advisory Panel – Discussion & Recommendations

Public Comment Session | 12:05-12:20

The Special Education Advisory Panel welcomes public comment on matters within its purview. Accordingly, a maximum 15-minute period is made available at its meetings for persons in the audience to address the Advisory Panel for no longer than 3 minutes. Written material of any length may be submitted. Preference will be given to persons who seek to address specific agenda items for the upcoming meeting. If any members of the Advisory Panel wish to comment during this time as a private citizen (not as a representative of the community partners they represent) that is permitted during this time. Agendas for upcoming meetings are posted prior to the meeting on the Special Education Advisory Panel website. Persons wishing to speak are strongly encouraged to submit their request before the day of the meeting. More information about Public Comment can be found [here](#).

Closing Remarks | 12:20-12:30

Theresa Senio, Assistant Director SEPP, Special Education Planning and Policy Development Office

Martha Daigle, Development Supervisor SEPP, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Adjourn | 12:30

- Next meeting date: June 17th, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Thank you for your participation!

Panel Priorities

2024-2025 School Year

- I. Resources to support teams' student-centered decisions (Related Council Priority: Student-Centered Instruction) *Reviewed April 8th*
 - II. Recruitment, retention and support/ Workforce (Related Council Priority: Building a Dynamic Multi-Cultural Workforce) *Reviewed April 8th*
 - III. Mental Health /Social Emotional (Related Council Priority: Safe and Inclusive School Communities) *Reviewed April 8th*
 - IV. Racial economic and cultural inequity (Related Council Priority: Safe and Inclusive School Communities) Identity-affirming, socially inclusive, and student-centered practices *Will Review June 17th*
 - V. General and special education collaboration to support educational accountability (Related Council Priority: Student-Centered Instruction) *Will Review June 17th*
 - VI. Accountability Monitoring and Data Collection on New and clarified initiatives *Will Review June 17th*
-

Duties of the SEAP under IDEA

- Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children and youth with disabilities. (CFR 300.169(a))
- Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. (CFR 300.169(b))
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under 618. (CFR 300.169(c))
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports. (CFR 300.169(d))
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. (CFR 300.169(e))

State Related Duties

- Waiver of non-supplant requirement. State must consult with the Advisory Panel regarding provisions of FAPE. (CFR 300.164(c)(4))
- After deleting personally identifiable information, provide the Advisory Panel with DPH findings and decisions. (CFR 300.513(d) and 300.514(c))