



State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) Report

September 28, 2018

I applied to be OAPSA's representative on SAPEC in May 2018 and was approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in August 2018.

Each state in the Union has an advisory council. SAPEC was established in accordance with 34 C.F.R. Part 300.167-300.169 in order to advise and assist the Ohio Department of Education on special education and related services for children with disabilities. The panel members represent various agencies, individuals with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities. As a panel our job is to help to connect the dots and identify unmet needs connected to students with disabilities. SAPEC meetings are held 4 times annually (August, November, March, and May) with 2 additional tentative conference call/webinar dates. We are an "advisory panel" – not an advocacy panel. There is a process in place for raising emerging issues of advising on unmet needs.

I attended both Orientation for new SAPEC members and my first SAPEC meeting on August 30, 2018. Dr. Kim Monachino, Director of OEC along with team members from OEC provided reports on

- Ohio's Strategic Plan for Education: "Each Child, Our Future",
 - Related Service Shortage Workgroup,
 - Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities,
 - Graduation Requirements
- and
- Ohio's State Determination.

Dr. Monachino had also requested that Brad Ingraham, State Legislative Liaison, ODE, provide us an update on House and Senate Bills and that was very helpful.

I did find out a survey had gone out a week prior on graduation requirement options (likely to Superintendents) and was able to have our Communications Officer, Val Riedthaler, send out an email to OAPSA members alerting them to that survey.

Each member of SAPEC must participate on an Ad Hoc Committee and I chose to work with the group on Dispute Resolution. Other choices I could have made included: Social Emotional Learning and Secondary Transition. ODE staff shared background information with each Ad Hoc

committee and then sought feedback about various ideas with time at end for each group to report out to large group.

The session ended with an approximately 50-minute-long presentation by John Magee, Education Program Specialist from OEC discussing Ohio's required and optional Special Education Forms.

As a new member, my learning curve was steep regarding the processes in place for SAPEC, but it was obviously a well-organized, highly effective and efficient group and we should all be very proud of the commitment of the members of this group and the seriousness with which they take their role in advising Office of Exceptional Children.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer

OAPSA Executive Director