



State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC) Report

Prepared for OAPSA February 28, 2020 Business Meeting

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 typically 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 am the representative for OAPSA and Talia St. Clair is my designated substitute.

SAPEC held an informational meeting virtually on January 30, 2020 and I participated. JoHannah Ward, our new Director for Office for Exceptional Children, welcomed us and discussed that her leadership style is ***very team oriented***. The strategic direction she will be guiding OEC toward is ***seeing the whole picture before trying to resolve anything***. She prefers being ***proactive, rather than reactive***. So she is in process of starting the journey to ***build a holistic integrated community***. ODE OEC has been working on

- ***Addressing key policy initiatives***
- ***Revising Ohio’s Sp Ed Standards***
- ***Other efforts related to the provision of programs and services for children with disabilities***

Monica Drvota, the Interim Associate Director, OEC, indicated OEC is working hard on ***updating standards and will be meeting with stakeholders*** during February and at next SAPEC meeting on Feb 27. They have ***reincorporated the federal language in those standards***. They plan for April to be the public comment period for 30 days (but that’s not firm date yet). Note that ***Monday, February 3, Monica became the permanent Associate Director for OEC.***

Michael Demczyk, Maria Lohr, and Jeffrey Shoemaker provided overview and updates on ***Gifted Education***. They covered ***Key Identification Requirements, Equitable Testing Guidance, Unduly Restrictive Criteria for Gifted Services, Gifted Advisory Council***, also covered ***PD Competencies Requirements for General Educators***.

Kelly Barger, Education Program Specialist, provided update on ***Ohio’s Plan to Improve Learning Experiences and Outcomes for Students with Disabilities***.

The three themes for the plan are:

1. ***Multi Tiered System of Supports***

- 2. Professional Learning Opportunities**
- 3. Postsecondary Outcomes**

Two Rounds of Reviews will be:

- **Cross Agency Review Effort**
- **External Facilitators and Workgroup Partners to Review**

Timelines are:

February/March - Draft plan to Paolo DeMaria, Ohio's Supt. of Public Instruction

March/April – Second round of review begins

Summer – Develop implementation team

Next SAPEC meeting is a makeup date from December and is scheduled for Feb. 27 2020- 9 am – 2:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Stelzer

OAPSA Executive Director