

Kansas Special Education Advisory Council

Vision

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for a unitary education system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for all individuals in Kansas.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Kansas State Special Education Advisory Council is to work collaboratively to provide leadership for continuous improvement of educational systems to ensure equity and enhance learning for all students in Kansas.

Belief Statements

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to lifelong learning through the following belief statements. We believe:

- Partnerships increase collaboration for better services.
- Visionary leadership is essential for appropriate services to meet the needs of all students.
- Innovation is essential to the process of life-long learning.
- All child service systems must be provided in an integrated and collaborative manner.
- Education is an evolving process that requires innovation, continuous growth, and evaluation.
- The needs of individuals in a diverse community must be met.

Membership Responsibilities

Federal Regulations § 300.168

In accordance with Part B, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, each state is required to establish and maintain a State advisory panel on the education of children with disabilities.

The State advisory panel shall □

1. Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
2. Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
3. Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act;
4. Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
5. Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities, including advising on eligible students with disabilities in adult prisons. The advisory panel also shall advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons; and
6. Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with exceptionalities, including gifted.

One of the major functions of the Advisory Council is to serve as a liaison between the statewide populace and the Kansas State Board of Education. Citizens of Kansas are encouraged to communicate with the Council. This may be accomplished through contact with any Council member or the Secretary of the Council. Local education agency personnel, school patrons, students, lay community persons, private sector, public and private agencies, and educators at all levels are encouraged to submit relevant issues, questions, and problems to the Council for consideration and action.

Public Comment

Members of the public are welcomed to address the State Advisory Council for Special Education (SEAC) on relevant topics. Public comments will be scheduled at a designated time, during regularly scheduled meetings. Persons who wish to comment will be asked to share their name, organization, and topic. With prior agreement of the Chairperson, a statement may be executed beyond three minutes. The members of the Council will take comments under consideration. Should public comments indicate the need for a Council response or action, members will take comments under consideration and an official response will be made at a later time. Written materials may be submitted at any time to the SEAC Secretary, Special Education & Title Services, Kansas State Department of Education, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, or email jessica.askew@ksde.gov

Council Membership

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is composed of no more than twenty-one individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with exceptionalities and the state administrator of special education services. A majority of the members of the council shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

SEAC Members 2026 - 2027

Brooke Moore, (Chair) *Institution of Higher Education*

Brooke.moore@fhsu.edu

Rebecca Schultz, (Chair-Elect) *Individual with a Disability*

beccaada21@smsd.org

Lena Kisner (Past-Chair) *Administrator of program for Exceptional Children*

lkisner@rcec610.com

Vacant - *Administrator of Program for Exceptional Children, member with a disability or has a child with a disability.*

Jason Meyer, *Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education*

jmeyer1@tps501.org

Daniel Simon, general education teacher

daniels@usd383.org

Jennifer King, *Parent of a gifted child*

jking7@usd259.net

Jessica Lopez-representative of a private school

jdlopez1413@gmail.com

Autumn Biltz, *Individual with Disability*

autumnbiltz@gmail.com

Rebekah Helget, *State Agency services to Exceptional Children*

rebekah.helget@greenbush.org

Kylie Stewart, *State Agency services to Exceptional Children*

stewart.kylie@gmail.com ,

Jennifer Florez, *Special Education Teacher*

jenniferflorez@smsd.org

Beth Zillinger, *Special Education & Related Services Personnel*

bzillinger@ucpnet.org

Jerri Brooks - *Institution of Higher Education*

jbrooks8@fhsu.edu

Vacant, *State Corrections Agency- Adult*

Kate Stewart – representative of virtual schools

katestewart@usd475.org

Charity Porter, *Transition services to children with Disabilities*

cporter@dreamcatcherscm.com

Sean Smith, *Parent of a child with a disability*

seanj@ku.edu

Roxanne Zillinger, *Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education*

roxanne.zillinger@ksde.gov

Bradley Miller, *State Juvenile Corrections Agency*

bmillerdaisy@gmail.com

Sydney Dringman, *State Agency for Foster Care of Children*

Sydney.dringman@ks.gov

SEAC Members (Ex-Officio)

Mike Burgess, *Disability Rights Center*

mike@drckansas.org

Anna Bradley, *Kansas National Education Association*

anna.bradley@knea.org

Leslie Girard, *Parent Training and Information Center*

lesli@famieliestogetherinc.org

Melanie Haas, *State Board Member*

melanie.haas@ksde.gov

Ashely Enz, KASEA

asenz@olatheschools.org

Jon Harding, *Kansas State School for the Blind*

jharding@kssdb.org

Joan Macy/Joelle Allen, *Kansas State School for the Deaf*

jmacy@kansasdeaf.gov or jallen@kansas.gov

2026-2027 Meeting Schedule

June 23, 2026

September 24, 2026

November 19, 2026

January 12,13, 2027

April 22, 2027

Visit the SEAC website at:

[Special Education Advisory Council \(SEAC\)](http://Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC))

Brooke Moore (Chairperson):

Brooke.moore@fhsu.edu

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The Kansas State Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: KSDE General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, KSDE, Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson, Suite 102, Topeka, KS 66612, (785) 296-3201.

KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (SEAC)

2026-2027

Dedicated to the Education of "ALL"
[Special Education Advisory Council \(SEAC\)](http://Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC))



Kansas State Department of
Education

Special Education & Title Services Team

Lindsey Graf, Director

900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 620

Topeka, KS 66612-1212

Office (785) 291-3097

Toll Free:

800-203-9462

FAX# (785) 291-3791

Council Contact:

Jessica Askew

jessica.askew@ksde.gov

