



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2024  
Lewis-Palmer Administration Building  
146 N. Jefferson St.  
Monument, CO

**CSEAC Mission:** Our mission is to actively represent children/youth with disabilities and impact decisions made on their behalf to enhance the quality of educational services.

**CSEAC Vision:** All learners are respected and challenged with high expectations, their needs are met, and student aspirations for success are fulfilled.

**Members in Attendance:** Julia Allison, Susan Archuleta, Kelly Balderston, Erin Camper, Cori Canty, Anjali DiMaria, Alison Ferguson, Kevin Fox, Nicole Gross, Phillip Haberman, Jennifer Kent, Eva Leon, Sari Mazon, Charlie Mellow, Jill Pidcock, Emilie Ring, Amy Rosengrants-Smith, Shannon Sloane, Jennifer Thornton, Laura Trapp, Taz Williams, Michael Woodruff

**Absences:** Jessica Cuthbertson, Kristin Duncan, Teddy Engle, Michel Friberg

**CDE Staff and Other Guests:** Orla Bolger, Special Education Data Analyst, Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU), CDE; Beth Donahue, Family Engagement Specialist, ESSU, CDE; Paul Foster, Assistant Commissioner, ESSU, CDE; Candace Hawkins, Director, Special Education Guidance, ESSU, CDE; Hannah Phillips, DPAR Administrative Assistant, ESSU, CDE; Katherine Rains, Dispute Prevention and Assisted Resolution Supervisor, ESSU, CDE; David Ramer, Program Support Assistant, ESSU, CDE; Debora Scheffel, State Board of Education Liaison; Kerry Whitmore, Supervisor, General Supervision and Monitoring, ESSU, CDE

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment and CSEAC Parent Input

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- There was no public comment.



- CSEAC parent input
  - Having a private duty nurse and a Registered Physical Therapist (RPT) needs to be part of the IEP.
  - Need to determine whether a procedure is medically necessary.
  - Mental health needs continue to be a struggle.

#### Minutes Approval

- The April and July minutes were approved unanimously without amendment.

#### Administrative Unit Determinations - Paul Foster, Assistant Commissioner, ESSU and Orla Bolger, Special Education Data Analyst, ESSU

- IDEA requires States to make determination of the extent to which a district meets the needs of SWDs.
- Colorado is in the “Needs Assistance” category, as are most states.
- Opting out of assessments is a big issue in Colorado.
- Going forward, Colorado will continue to monitor assessments, but this will be report only; no points will be lost.

#### ESSU Updates and Upcoming Rulemaking - Paul Foster, Assistant Commissioner, ESSU and Candace Hawkins, Director, Special Education Guidance, ESSU

- CSEAC gave feedback on:
  - HB24-1063 Addressing Abbreviated School Days
  - SB24-069 Clarify Individualized Education Program Information
  - HB24-1342 Test Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities
  - HB24-1087 Professional Endorsement Special Education Teaching

#### Updates from the State Board of Education - Dr. Deborah Scheffel, State Board of Education Liaison

- Dr. Scheffel updated CSEAC on SBE matters.

#### Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) Report Overview - Paul Foster, Assistant Commissioner, ESSU; Kerry Whitmore, Supervisor, General Supervision and Monitoring, ESSU; Candace Hawkins, Director, Special Education Guidance, ESSU and Katherine Rains, Assisted Resolution and Dispute Prevention Supervisor, ESSU

- Ensuring that free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in a least restrictive environment (LRE) is paramount.
- Using alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is recommended.

#### Constituent Input

- Restraint and Seclusion is this year’s topic.

#### Subcommittees

- Subcommittees met and reported out.

*Respectfully submitted by David Ramer, October 2024*

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