

State Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes



Holiday Day Inn North (Macon)
August 29-30, 2018

Mr. Richard Woods, State School Superintendent

- ✓ Shared progress with Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement, as well as, improved inter- and intra-agency collaboration
- ✓ Encouraged a renewed focus on readiness for occupation
- ✓ Expressed concerns with accountability barriers that impact continuous improvement
- ✓ Expressed a commitment to serve our customers in excellence

SAP Introductions: Members introduced themselves and shared varied areas of expertise

John Copenhaver, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TASE) at Utah University

- ✓ Provided technical assistance for orientation of new panel members to include purpose of SAP under IDEA, required membership, definition panel, and process of setting priorities
- ✓ Shared hot topics across the nation to include leadership in special ed, mental health, recruitment and retention of qualified staff, response to intervention, dyslexia, vouchers & private schools, implementation science (evidence-based practice), IDEA re-authorization, and substance abuse
- ✓ Shared a web-based resource for panels to connect with other state and national resources
<https://collab.osepideasthatwork.org/sap-sicc/>

Jamila Pollard, Program Manager Senior, Family Engagement and Dispute Resolution (GaDOE)

- ✓ Shared Dispute Resolution data trends and recommendations
- ✓ Shared the state's continuum of resources for families and school districts
- ✓ Discussed the partnership with Parent to Parent of Georgia
- ✓ Shared the state's Special Education Help Desk: 404-657-9968,
SPEDhelpdesk@doe.k12.ga.us
- ✓ Discussed the IEP Facilitation (FIEP) project, which is a process used to help IEP teams facilitate communication and problem solving
 - Evaluation of FIEP participants showed that a clear majority of participants reported positive outcomes because of the process.
- ✓ Discussed mediation process and shared that the requests have increased
- ✓ Created awareness for the formal complaint process and due process hearings.

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Public Comments:

The SAP received seven public comments (6 from Valdosta and 1 from Atlanta)

Summary of General Comments:

1. Need better understanding of the student's disability
2. Need more money, personnel, and training to provide necessary services
3. Need to challenge our students
4. Need to develop better Individualized Education Programs
5. Need to provide more training for case managers
6. Need more training for paraprofessionals
7. Need more assistance with remedial reading
8. Focus on students' needs not labels
9. Deemphasize quotas that impact overidentification

SAP Priorities Activity:

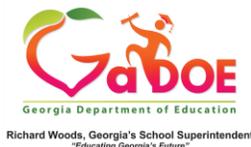
In addition to the previously identified GaDOE priorities, the small groups discussed other topics that may be of interest.

- 1. Procedural Safeguards**
- 2. Eligibility Determination**
- 3. IEP Development and Implementation**
4. Additional Priority Areas
 - a. Post-Secondary Transition
 - b. Mental Health Awareness and Supports
 - c. Disproportionality
 - d. Special education teacher retention/recruitment/training

SAP workgroups generated additional discussion based on the topics below:

- ✓ How can we recruit and retain sped teachers?
- ✓ How can we train teachers and paraprofessionals to improve specialized instruction?
- ✓ How can we voice the need for an Alternate Diploma option for students with significant cognitive disabilities that will positively impact local accountability requirements?

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Small groups met to discuss various priorities and make recommendations for FY19 SAP Sub-Committees.

1. Best Practices
2. Family Engagement
3. Inter-Agency Collaboration
4. Flexibility and Accountability
5. Dispute Resolution
6. Public Comment
7. Marketing

Laurie Smith made a motion to accept the sub-committees, which was seconded by Tre Hutchins. Members voted, and the motion was passed unanimously. Sub-committees met and reported out to the Panel.

- ✓ The SAP discussed the state Annual Performance Indicators.
- ✓ The SAP discussed the IDEA State Determination.
- ✓ The SAP discussed disproportionality and its role to improved student outcomes.
- ✓ The SAP discussed how to improve engagement of SAP members.
- ✓ The SAP discussed marketing needs for public comments and Panel.
- ✓ The SAP discussed marketing needs for the FY19 SAP Application.

Paul West, SAP Co-Chair

- ✓ Presented “Trying to Explain the Referral Process for a 504”
- ✓ Discussed the different federal laws that impact students with disabilities
- ✓ Shared the following video as a resource:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9TgDgHfdlY>

Zelphine Smith-Dixon, State Director

- ✓ Discussed technical assistance provided for local districts about General Supervision and IDEA Implementation
<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/Implementation-Manual.aspx>