



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION*



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education**

**Legislative Committee**

**Thursday, March 16, 2023**

**\*\*\*\*\* 12:00 pm. to 12:30 pm. \*\*\*\*\***

**Teams Meeting**

**YouTube Live Stream: Public Participant Viewing**

[CT State Advisory Council for Special Education \(Legislative Committee\) - 3/16/23 - YouTube](#)

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Jeffry Spahr (Chair), Jennifer Lussier (SAC Vice Chair), Susan Yankee (SAC Chair), Lena Esposito, Jolie Medina (non-voting) and Bryan Klimkiewicz (non-voting)

**Members Absent:** Rick Raucci

**I. Call to Order:**

Meeting called to order at 12:10 pm.

**Public Comment:**

SAC meetings are public meetings and members of the public may participate.

Call-In Number: 866-880-0098

Participant Code: 89689633

**II. Legislative Matters:**

Jeff Spahr talks about the Education Committee and provides a recap of work this group has been doing through email due to timing of matters, responses, and testimony. Bryan K. responds to Jeff when he asks about SDE Legislative Liaison's response his email questions on Ed Committee bill approval.

Bryan K. discusses current bills of interest with the group members. There is conversation on restraint and seclusion, on the role of the SAC, discipline, and expulsion in regard to behaviors. Advised the group on how they can prepare for testimony in reference to laws and recommendations to the legislature. Ana W. is concerned about causing unintended concerns that cause more harm than good for the students. Jeff S. concerned about SAC voice on proposed bills that the Committee would like to respond to or support. Bryan K. talks about this being one part of the bill and the SAC's voice and work can support their Lena E. states her concerns on students being injured during restraint and

seclusion. She goes on to add that she is also concerned for the wellbeing of the educators. Feels there needs to be a plan to help the educators feel safe and not leave their positions due to the difficulties that come.

Jennifer L. talks about the effects of the seclusions and restraints on students and families, should be used as last resort need to have more interventions.

The team ends the meeting discussing what stakeholders should be included in the SAC's response. They decide to work through Google Docs and Jen Lussier will send out to the group.

Susan Y. asks about being able to respond on 504 and Jen responds that as a Council we cannot but as an individual the members can support that bill.

- a. Bills of Interest Related to Special Education.
- b. Prepare Written Response.

**III. Action Items:**

Jen will send out the link for Google docs.

**IV. Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 pm.