



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Executive Committee

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

******* 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p. m. *******
Teams Meeting

MINUTES

Members Present: Tom Cosker (Past Chair), Tammy Raccio (Chair), Jen Lussier (Vice Chair), Nachi Bhatt, Susan Lemke, Bryan Klimkiewicz (Non-voting), Sean Cronin (Non-voting) and Jolie Medina

Members Absent:

- I. **Call to Order:** 12:20 pm.
- II. **Public Comment:** N/A

SAC meetings are public meetings and members of the public may participate.
Call-In Number: 866-880-0098
Participant Code: 89689633

III. **Council Matters:**

Tom brought up the issue of mask wearing and the exemption for wearing a mask at school that requires a doctor note based on the Lamont executive order. Districts are firm on this and kids are not able to come to school without a mask unless they have a doctor note and many doctors are unwilling to provide notes. Bryan brought up the recent CDC guidelines around this issue. This is an issue for many students who will not be able to attend school in person.

The group discussed the provision of services for remote learning. CSDE guidance has suggested districts have plans for each of the 3 learning models. In the absence of a plan for a particular model, the IEP is still in effect. There may be delays in getting these plans developed but districts should prioritize the plan for the model being used upon school opening and do the other plans as soon as possible to be prepared for the other plans, specifically remote learning

Jen talks about models and parents not knowing that SDE has made changes. Bryan responds saying that districts are trying to prioritize paperwork and plans will have different scenarios but may not be available up front. He goes on to say that SPED teachers may not have all info on reopening, there will be several scenarios and one may be proactive contingency while another is parent needs to know right away. Tom says parents knowing of services is important to be able to decide on remote learning, he also states that some districts do not have teachers in at this time.

Tammy speaks on her district and says teachers are present at school and Bryan says either way it is better to have plans even if not complete. The committee talks more about reopening and different scenarios.

Tammy mentions MOA/MOU and teachers potentially violating IDEA. Districts that are seeking guidance by legal organizations are the people that will be ok but others who are not knowledgeable in violations will affect SPED students. Bryan asks for examples and talks to Tammy and Tom.

Tom talks about AR ruling and transition students. Clear guidance put out by SDE but not requiring people to connect on these services being available. Parents not aware that the services have been extended and that these services exist.

Susan joins meeting and Bryan updates her on the topics that were discussed up until that time. The group talked about masks and Bryan will be sending out guidance to ConnCASE. Nachi provided mask aspect on behalf of DCF and the Committee talked further about fall reopening of schools.

Bryan moves on to talk about feedback and moving the live session to a different time than previously scheduled. In addition, he says that a parent document being released today and not sure about timing of release on the disciplinary guidance document.

IV. **Summary/Action Items:**

Bryan to send out CDC update guidance on masks to Committee.

V. **Adjourn:** By Tom Cosker at 1:02 pm.