



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full Council Committee Meeting

Date: September 24, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Missy Wrigley (chairperson), Brandalyn Williams (vice chairperson), Brian K. Smith, Catherine Summ, Representative Dan Gaiewski, Dimpny Malvania, Goviana Morales, Jeffry Spahr, Jennifer Lussier (secretary), Eve Hurley (Janelle Marella), Lori Fortuna, Louis Tallarita, Nachi Bhatt, Representative Robin Comey, Tom Cosker, Evan Simlack, Allison Kopie, Mary Beth Bruder, Susan Yankee, Kim Williamson, Sean Cronin (CSDE), Bryan Klimkiewicz (CSDE)

Members Absent: Jonathan Metcalf, Stacey Palker, Jake Shumbo, Lena Esposito, Michael Scanlon, Ana Wittig, Denise Drummond, Amy Messinger, Cassandra Reilly, Nancy DeCrescenzo, Rita Halkias, Tylar Young,

SERC Administration: Christine Kuehlewind, Lauren Johns

I. Call to Order and Welcome: 9:02 am

II. Council Purpose and Function

III. Introduction/Roles

IV. Public Comment: 9:10 a.m.

- i. SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:
Call In: 929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 970 3275 8341
Participant Code: 357231

V. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of Full Council Minutes from April 23, 2025- Tom Cosker motions to approve the meeting minutes, Jennifer Lussier seconds, Abstentions: Susan



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Yankee, Eve Hurley, Evan Simlack, Rep. Robin Comey, and Allison Kope, vote unanimous in favor to approve

Old Business

VI. Executive Matters: 9:15 a.m.

i. Annual Report

Missy Wrigley: February 15, 2026 is the due date, timeline will be set at October Executive Committee meeting.

Susan Yankee: consider completing the report earlier than due date, Tom Cosker and Rep. Dan Gaiewski were in agreement as well.

ii. 2025-2026 Priorities

Missy Wrigley: summarized the review of the 2025-2026 priority summary document from the summer retreat.

Missy Wrigley and Christine Kuehlewind: SAC priorities survey presented to SAC full council members for their input on identifying priorities of focus for 2025-2026.

Bryan Klimkiewicz: clarified how the priorities are considered throughout the year and the cycle.

Missy Wrigley: complete the survey shortly, but not needed to be completed during this meeting.

Susan Yankee: reiterates the focus of the priorities is only students with IEP (Individualized Education Plans).

Bryan Klimkiewicz: these priorities won't be the only topics discussed at our meetings, as there are so many topics within special education. Marketing and making the public aware of SAC are examples of areas that can be addressed at meetings, but don't need to be priorities. Also, the state department will assist with data for the priority areas.

Jennifer Lussier: Reminds council to consider actionable recommendations are needed, however, they need to be doable and reasonable to accomplish. Also, consideration of families are important, and thinking about supporting student behavior and mental health, including restraint/seclusion and chronic absenteeism.

Tom Cosker: Reminds full council that we're an advisory group, so keep in mind there's so much the State Department and legislators can do. Please keep specific and manageable, not broad.



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Rep. Robin Comey: Reminds full council that when changing policy it's best not to be too prescriptive, but if there's barriers that need to be removed then it's important to flag for the legislators.

VII. Membership/Nominating Report/Updates: 9:33 a.m.

i. Membership committee chair vacancy

Catherine Summ: recently notified of a new legislative appointment- Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox. Welcome to SAC! Currently a vacancy for a paraeducator member and several student vacancies. Welcome to Eve Hurley as the new ConnCase representation on SAC! Also, SAC is looking for a new membership chair. Catherine has enjoyed her time as the chair and is now open. Please contact Catherine if interested in the membership chairmanship.

VIII. Ad Hoc Bylaw/Policy Report/Update: 9:38 a.m.

Missy Wrigley: Reminds each committee chair to submit their operational document and the timeline of Bylaw document revision

IX. Legislative Report/Updates 9:40 a.m.

Jeff Spahr: Comments on his submission of operational document

Tom Cosker: Breakfast at LOB helped last year and continue to reach out to legislators

Susan Yankee: Presence at LOB is very valuable- ideal to have all SAC in-person at the LOB

New Business

X. BSE Updates: 9:50 a.m.

i. Back to School

Bryan Klimkiewicz: Reviewed and presented the following: back to school website and materials, BSE staff with roles and functions, CT's integrated system of general supervision, BSE's 6-year Tiered approach, and data, site visits, and monitoring.

ii. Due Process - Kirsten Dovenberg

Dispute Resolution Process- Presented on mediations requested, complaint data, and mediator's role and responsibilities.



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XI. Roundtable: 10:23 a.m.

Jeff Spahr: October ADHD Awareness Month- state of CT is first state in the United States to recognize ADHD with it's own month

Susan Yankee: Every Child Experience Grant- help with funding and access for art experiences

Missy Wrigley: Send links to Jennifer Lussier with any event or resource to share to SAC full council members

Bryan Klimkiewicz: Student members sharing is very important for SAC full council to know what is happening

Adjourn: 10:33 a.m.- Evan Simlack motion to adjourn, unanimous in favor

State Advisory Council Meeting Dates/Locations:

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
1.	September 24, 2025	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
2.	October 15, 2025	10:00 am-2:00 pm	Location TBD
3.	November 19, 2025	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
4.	January 14, 2026	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
5.	February 25, 2026	10:00-2:00 pm	Location TBD
6.	March 25, 2026	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting
7.	April 22, 2026	10:00-2:00 pm	Location TBD
8.	May 20, 2026 (Tentative-if needed)	9:00-10:30 am	Virtual Meeting