



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education

Full Council Committee Meeting

Date: November 19, 2025

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

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Missy Wrigley (chairperson), Brandalyn Williams (vice chairperson), Brian K. Smith, Catherine Summ, Representative Dan Gaiewski, Representative Robin Comey, Jeffry Spahr, Jennifer Lussier (secretary), Eve Hurley, Lori Fortuna, Louis Tallarita, Nachi Bhatt, Tom Cosker, Evan Simlack (Janelle Marella), Mary Beth Bruder, Susan Yankee, Kim Williamson, Jonathan Metcalf, Stacey Parker, Michael Scanlon, Jake Shumbo, Lena Esposito, Denise Drummond, Ana Wittig, Rita Halkias, Sean Cronin (CSDE), Bryan Klimkiewicz (CSDE)

Members Absent: Dimpy Malvana, Goviana Morales, Allison Kopie, Amy Messinger, Cassandra Reilly, Nancy DeCrescenzo

SERC Administration: Christine Kuehlewind, Lauren Johns

I. Call to Order and Welcome: (9:06 am)

II. Council Purpose and Function

III. Introduction/Roles

IV. Public Comment (9:15 a.m.)

- i. SAC meetings are public meetings; members of the public may participate by calling in:

Call In: 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 963 8731 6963

Participant Code: 788959



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V. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of Full Council Minutes from October 15, 2025: Tom Cosker motions to accept meeting minutes as amended, Lena Esposito seconds, Abstentions: Rep. Robin Comey, Jonathan Metcalf and Michael Scanlon, vote unanimous in favor to approve

Old Business

VI. Executive Matters (9:18 a.m.)

- i. Annual Report- the Executive Committee is still finalizing the SAC Annual Report. They will continue to refine the language and recommendations. Once completed, it will be sent to BSE leadership for final review.
The Council reviewed the four established priority areas:
 1. Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) placement continuum
 2. Special education staffing, recruitment, and retention
 3. Social-emotional health in special education
 4. Meaningful parent participation in PPT meetings
- ii. Review of draft By-law revisions- revised By-laws were distributed in advance; the Council is observing a 21-day review period prior to a vote scheduled for January. The Council reviewed the key updates and revisions that were revised in the By-laws.

VII. Membership/Nominating Report/Updates (9:45 a.m.)

- i. Membership updates-
Several vacancies remain on the SAC: 3 legislative, 3 student, and 1 paraeducator. The membership committee is reviewing a student application. Overall membership is close to full; outreach will occur to members who have missed several meetings to confirm continued participation. A potential membership chair has been identified. Clarification on bylaws: missing 3 consecutive meetings (with at least 50% of annual meetings) may trigger follow-up.

VIII. Legislative Report/Updates (9:45 a.m.)

- i. Legislative Updates- An annual legislative committee report was submitted to the chair for possible inclusion in the SAC annual report. The legislature is currently in a preparatory phase, with outreach to committee chairs. A



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children's behavioral health bill passed during a special session. Because it's an even-year session, most bills must come through committees rather than individual legislators, making early engagement with committee chairs critical. The special education committee was extended for another year. The Bergen Commission (focused on special education research and policy) is beginning work and has openings for parents and special educators; interested individuals can contact Rep. Miriam Kahn.

New Business

IX. BSE Updates (9:51 a.m.)

A new draft Autism Eligibility Worksheet is posted for public comment; feedback is open through the end of the month. IDEA Part B grant reconciliation with districts is underway and will close early next month. Integrated monitoring activities have resumed, including parent interviews, classroom observations, and IEP reviews.

Public Transition Program (PTP) standards are nearing final approval, with site visits planned to review program quality (focused on post-secondary transition outcomes). Site visits will be conducted by CSDE staff with SERC support; SAC input may be sought as the process develops.

Planning for next year's technical assistance and training is already underway, with CSDE requesting SAC input on priority training needs (no immediate deadline; final proposals due in May). CSDE highlighted work of the Dispute Resolution Team, noting complaint data is used to identify themes that inform training and technical assistance.

SEED Grant (Special Education Expansion and Enhancement) – initial district payments made. CSDE is working with PCG to finalize a CT-SED data field reference report by January.

Legislative & Policy Updates: Guidance is being finalized and disseminated related to: developmental delay eligibility, restrictions on mid-year tuition increases by charging entities, and staffing vacancy reporting requirements.



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CSDE is monitoring implementation of FBA/BIP requirements for emergency out-of-district placements. CSDE continues to track trends and may issue clarifying guidance, with SAC input welcomed.

CSDE, CPAC, and SERC are updating the Parent Guide to Special Education, with emphasis on accessibility and multiple formats. Discussion highlighted the need to ensure updated PPT process materials are posted online. The Transition Bill of Rights was emphasized as a key required resource for families beginning at age 14, including links to adult services and agencies.

X. Roundtable (10:25 a.m.)

Roundtable Highlights:

Emergency services and student safety discussion about strategies and technology for municipal emergency responders. Any programs are typically opt-in due to confidentiality concerns. Potential value in sharing best practices and awareness statewide.

Federal education concerns: members expressed strong concern regarding potential impacts on public education. Clarification was offered that special education services will continue, though infrastructure may change.

Transition planning: Concerns raised about parents—especially of outplaced students—not consistently receiving transition information. CSDE reiterated districts are required to provide the Transition Bill of Rights, and every district has a transition coordinator who can support all students, including those placed out of district.

Adjourn: 10:38 am- Lena Esposito motion to adjourn, unanimous in favor



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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 | Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave #5100, Hartford (Room: 1C) |
| 3. | November 19, 2025 | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting |
| 4. | January 28, 2026 | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting |
| 5. | February 25, 2026 | 10:00-1:00 pm | Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Ave #5100, Hartford |
| 6. | March 25, 2026 | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting |
| 7. | April 22, 2026 | 10:00-2:00 pm | 1 Riverside Dr, East Hartford |
| 8. | May 20, 2026 (Tentative-if needed) | 9:00-10:30 am | Virtual Meeting |