



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**Connecticut State Advisory Council for Special Education
Executive Committee**

Date: February 11, 2026
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Zoom Meeting:

<https://ctserc.zoom.us/j/92369373174?pwd=Uy6oDuZJtES3rbqEES8eaNmTdXDHb.1>

Meeting ID: 923 6937 3174

Passcode: 638559

Meeting Minutes

SAC Members Present: Susan Yankee, Jeffry Spahr, Missy Wrigley, Brandalyn Williams, Jennifer Lussier, Nachi Bhatt, Goviana Morales

SAC Members Absent: Catherine Summ, Bryan Klimkiewicz (CSDE), Sean Cronin (CSDE)

SERC Administration: Christine Kuehlewind, Lauren Johns

I. Call to Order: 9:34 a.m.

II. Public Comment: No public comment

Dial in: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 923 6937 3174

Passcode: 638559

III. Consent Agenda: 9:35 a.m.

a. Approval of Executive Committee Minutes from January 7, 2026

Motion to approve meeting minutes from January 7, 2026 with corrections: Jennifer Lussier puts into motion, Jeff Spahr seconds, Nachi Bhatt abstains, all vote unanimous in favor for approval.

IV. Committee Matters: 9:40 a.m.

a. Old Business

i. LOB Breakfast

February 25, 9:00–10:00 AM. The room must be vacated by 10:30 AM due to another event. Informal conversations may continue in the general dining area afterwards.

Presentation: Missy will welcome attendees and introduce council members, then introduce Brian for opening remarks. Executive council members will briefly present the four SAC priority areas, with different speakers for each. Nachi Bhatt volunteered to present on social-emotional/mental health priorities.

Materials & Logistics: SERC will send out reminder email and event flyer to all SAC members. Registration is required for SAC members, but legislators may just walk

in. SERC will provide copies of the materials for all attendees, including SAC on pager of the priorities and recommendations, a few printed annual report copies, QR code linking to the full annual report posted on the SAC website online, and name tags and sign-in sheet.

ii. Housekeeping

SERC will email out the SAC annual report to the required legislative groups and the Education Committee. SAC members may recommend additional recipients. Discussion included potentially sharing with early childhood stakeholders, although SAC's official charge covers ages 3–22. Members discussed strengthening collaboration with the Birth-to-Three/early childhood council in the future.

b. New Business 9:55 a.m.

i. Set Agenda for Full Council Meeting on February 25, 2026

Scheduled after the legislative breakfast.

Time: Approximately 10:30 AM – 2:00 PM.

Location: The Lyceum (near the Legislative Office Building).

Parking instructions and maps will be included in registration confirmations and reminder emails.

Registration is important so organizers can contact attendees in case of weather-related changes.

V. Membership Committee Report: Catherine Summ 10:00 a.m.

a. Updates

Current vacancies:

3 student representatives

1 paraprofessional

2 legislators

1 teacher

1 charter school representative

1 Department of Corrections representative (Rita Halkias recently resigned)

Additional notes: About 11 applications have been received, primarily for teacher and paraprofessional positions. A committee meeting will be scheduled to review candidates.

VI. Legislative Committee Report: Jeffrey Spahr 10:05 a.m.

a. Updates

Legislative workgroup meeting scheduled for tomorrow 2/12/26 (virtual due to a state holiday). A letter was sent to Education Committee leadership and key legislators outlining SAC priorities. The workgroup will finalize who will speak on each issue at the legislative breakfast.

VII. Action Items

SERC- Registration for the April 22 meeting (in-person/hybrid) is pending contract approval with the venue.

Parking and directions will be shared in event communications for in-person meetings.

Executive committee members may arrive early (around 8:30 AM) on Feb 25 to help set up.

VIII. Adjourn: 10:08 a.m. Motion to adjourn, Susan Yankee motions, all vote unanimous in favor.

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