



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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

Date: March 12, 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: 938 8129 7648

Passcode: 461537

Meeting Minutes

SAC Members Present: Jeffry Spahr (chairperson), Tom Cosker (co-chair), Susan Yankee, Missy Wrigley, Jennifer Lussier, Nachi Bhatt, State Rep. Robin Comey, Ana Wittig

SAC Members Absent: Brandalyn Williams, Goviana Morales, Catherine Summ, State Rep. Dan Gaiewski, State Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, Dimpy Malvania, Lori Fortuna, Denise Drummond, Bryan Klimkiewicz (CSDE), Sean Cronin (CSDE)

SERC Administration: Christine Kuehlewind, Linda Adorno

I. Call to Order: (9:31 a.m.)

II. Public Comment: (9:31 a.m.)

Dial in: 646-931-3860
Meeting ID: 938 8129 7648
Passcode: 461537

III. Consent Agenda: (9:32 a.m.)

a. Approval of Legislative Committee Minutes from December 12, 2024

Motion to approve meeting minutes from December 12, 2024 as written: Tom Cosker puts into motion, Susan Yankee seconds, all vote unanimous in favor for approval.

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

a. Old Business

i. Discussion regarding pending and proposed legislation

- A bill was passed requiring same-day notification (instead of within 24 hours) for restraint and seclusion incidents. Several requested provisions were not included, such as: special education representation on school crisis teams, and enhanced training for school security staff. These may need to be revisited in future legislative sessions.

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b. New Business (10:00 a.m.)

i. Discussion regarding recent legislative items

- 504 & ADA Bills (SB 424 & SB 430)
504 bill: Establishes an educational ombudsperson and complaint process.
ADA bill: Aims to codify federal ADA protections into state law.
There was general support for both bills from the committee. No detailed testimony due to time constraints and existing extensive public input. Plan to submit a brief, general statement of support.
- SB 309 – Private Equity in Special Education
The bill would prohibit new approvals of special education providers owned by private equity firms, however, existing providers would be grandfathered in. There was mixed perspectives amongst the members. Still considered for possible support based on prior SAC stance.
- HB 5325 – Cameras in Seclusion Rooms
The bill adds a requirement for cameras in seclusion rooms (not classrooms). There was support for this bill for the following: student safety concerns and accountability and documentation benefits. Some of the concerns were the following: impact of cost on budgets and data storage and privacy (not yet addressed in bill). The committee concluded to only support the camera provision (Section 1), not other parts of the bill.
- HB 5002 – Large Education Funding Bill
This bill covers funding, special education, and early childhood programs. The members thought the bill was considered too broad and complex for SAC to address at this time. No action is planned.
- Action Items:
Jeff will draft a simple support letter covering: general support for SB 424 (504) and SB 430 (ADA), support for SB 309 (pending clarity), and support for HB 5325 (camera provision only). The draft will be reviewed by the legislative committee, approved by the executive committee, and submitted for formally as testimony.

V. Adjourn: 10:15 a.m. Motion to adjourn, Susan Yankee motions, Tom Cosker seconds, all vote unanimous in favor.

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