

New Hampshire's
State Advisory Committee
on the Education of Children with Disabilities
2016 Report

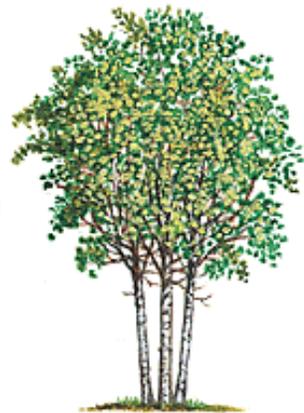
For the reporting/ meeting period from September 2015 through June 2016



State bird
Purple finch



State flower
Purple lilac



State tree
White birch

State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children with Disabilities
NH Department of Education
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Tel. (603) 271-3741
http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac.htm
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Acknowledgements

The NH State Advisory Committee (SAC) on the Education of Children with Disabilities would like to thank the following individuals for their contributions to the SAC:

- Santina Thibedeau, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education for her involvement and support of the SAC, including her Bureau updates at each meeting
- For providing administrative support to the SAC, including preparing for meetings, taking minutes at meetings, and producing meeting agendas and minutes:
 - Barbara Dauphinais, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Elaina DeAngelo, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Penny Duffy, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Terry Stafford, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
- For their presentations given during this reporting period to the SAC:
 - Lisa Beaudoin, Parent Member of SAC on “Inclusion Matters”
 - Bridget Brown, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Sherry Burbank, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Liz Carlotto, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - John Copenhaver, Orientation to State Advisory Panels under IDEA
 - Ann Davis, new Education Director for the NH Department of Corrections on: *NH Department of Corrections: Community Corrections Division Corrections Special School District (CSSD)*
 - Joanne DeBello, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Tom Grinley, NH DHHS, Bureau of Behavioral Health on “Students with Mental Health Issues”
 - Lisa Hatz, SAC member representing the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation on Updates to the Reauthorization of the Rehabilitation Act (WIOA)
 - Jason Henry, Superintendent, Carroll County House of Corrections presented on the Houses of Correction
 - Mary Lane, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Lori Noordergraaf, NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education
 - Terry & Kate, Representing NH School Psychologists on the Expanding Role of School Psychologists
 - Members of the SAC who give so generously of their time in service to the committee

Introduction

NH's State Advisory Committee (SAC) on the Education of Children with Disabilities

SAC is NH's State Advisory Panel, required by the Federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B to advise the State Education Agency on the unmet needs of children with disabilities in the state.

The purpose, requirements for membership, terms, duties and meetings are detailed in NH's Chapter 186-C:3-b. The requirements in RSA 186-C:3-b are in compliance with the IDEA, while also reflecting and meeting the unique needs of NH's special education system and children with disabilities.

Status of Special Education in NH

The State Advisory Committee relies on data to inform its understanding of the current status of special education in New Hampshire, as well as to aid the SAC in its selection of priorities. Two documents that were used by SAC were the IDEA Determination Letters and NH's State Performance Plan (SPP) and Annual Performance Reports (APR) for the time period covered by this report. SAC was pleased that the annual Determination Letter from the US Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, which is based on the data provided by the state in our APR, "determined that New Hampshire meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of IDEA".

Two related documents are included in Appendix C:

- Excerpts from NH's 6/2016 Determination Letter; and
- A Link to the accompanying Data Tables.

The information from NH's SPP/APR sets targets for specific indicators (for example, graduation rates for students with disabilities), and provides empirical data to measure the progress of individual school districts and the state towards each of the established targets. Using this data, NH is able to identify areas that may need additional focus or the redirection of resources. NH is also able to compare our outcome data with that of other states, and to determine if individual school districts may either be utilizing best practices that should be considered for replication, or be struggling and require technical assistance or other response to address the area of concern.

Updated versions of these documents are provided for SAC members each year.

Purpose

The purpose of NH's State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children with Disabilities is covered in RSA 186-C:3-b, I:

I. In accordance with the provisions of 20 U.S.C. section 1412(a)(21) and 34 C.F.R. sections 300.167-300.169, there is established an advisory committee on the education of children/students with disabilities to advise the commissioner of education on issues relating to special education, and to promote communication and cooperation among individuals involved with students with disabilities. In addition, the committee shall review the federal financial participation and the level of state funding to determine their impact on the programs and delivery of services to children/students with disabilities.

Duties / Responsibilities

The duties of the SAC are listed in RSA 186-C:3-b,IV:

IV. The committee shall:

- (a) Advise the department of education regarding unmet needs within the state in the education of children/students with disabilities.
- (b) Provide an annual report to the governor and the state legislature on the status of education of students with disabilities in New Hampshire.
- (c) Comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the state regarding the education of children/students with disabilities.
- (d) Assist the state in developing and reporting such information and evaluations as may assist the U.S. Secretary of Education in the performance of responsibilities under 20 U.S.C. section 1418 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
- (e) Advise the department of education in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports.
- (f) Advise the department of education in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children/students with disabilities.

Additionally, in accordance with the IDEA regulations, §300.513(d)(1), the SAC will receive transmittals of findings and decisions of due process hearings.

Membership

The composition of the SAC is detailed in RSA 186-C:3-b,II:

II. The committee shall be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities. A majority of the committee membership shall be composed of individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The committee membership shall be as follows:

- (a) Individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities, appointed by the governor.
- (b) Two members of the house education committee, appointed by the speaker of the house.
- (c) Two members of the senate education committee, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (d) One representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children/students with disabilities, appointed by the governor.
- (e) One state education official, appointed by the governor.
- (f) One local educational official, who shall be an administrator, appointed by the governor.
- (g) Two teachers, one of whom shall be a special education teacher, appointed by the governor.
- (h) One representative of the department of health and human services involved in the financing or delivery of special education or related services to children with disabilities, recommended by the commissioner of the department of health and human services, and appointed by the governor.
- (i) One representative of the Disabilities Rights Center, recommended by the Disabilities Rights Center and appointed by the governor.
- (j) One representative of the Parent Information Center, recommended by the Parent Information Center and appointed by the governor.
- (k) Two individuals with disabilities who may have received special education services, one of whom may be a high school student, appointed by the governor.
- (l) One administrator of a public special education program, appointed by the governor.
- (m) One representative of an institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel, appointed by the governor.
- (n) One representative of a private school approved for special education, appointed by the governor.
- (o) One representative of a chartered public school, appointed by the governor.
- (p) One individual representing children with disabilities who are home-schooled, appointed by the governor.
- (q) One representative from the department of corrections, and one representative from a county correctional facility, both of whom are responsible for administering the provision of special education or special education and related services, appointed by the governor.

- (r) A state and a local educational official who are responsible for performing activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. section 11431, et seq, appointed by the governor.
 - (s) A representative from the department of health and human services responsible for foster care, recommended by the commissioner of the department of health and human services and appointed by the governor.
- III. (a) Committee members shall be appointed to staggered 2-year terms, and members may succeed themselves.
- (b) A chairperson shall be selected by a majority of the committee members on an annual basis

Openings on the SAC occur each year as members terms expire or they are no longer able to serve. Individuals interested in being nominated for membership on the State Advisory Committee should contact the NH Department of Education or the Chairperson of the State Advisory Committee (see cover page for contact information). Prospective members should identify which legislatively mandated membership category they would like to fulfill. Interested persons who do not fit into one of the open membership categories may wish to work with one of the subcommittees as an ad hoc member.

All SAC meetings are open to the general public, and public comment is welcome and included as part of each meeting agenda. Each subcommittee decides the ways and degree in which they involve members of the general public in subcommittee meetings.

Membership Status: 6/1/2016, SAC has 35 members, including 4 legislative members. The current membership meets the statutory requirement that a simple majority of members be individuals with disabilities or parents of children/students with disabilities.

Vacancies:

1. One local education official, who shall be an administrator
2. One special education teacher
3. A representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to students with disabilities
4. An individual representing children with disabilities who are home schooled

Additional parent members would ensure that SAC continues to meet the statutory requirement.

A complete listing of SAC members, along with their role or agency/organization represented, term and attendance, as well as any current open (vacant) positions may be found in Appendix A. Members of the SAC, with a few specified exceptions are appointed by the Governor.

SAC Leadership:

Each year, SAC members elect a Chair; the Chair then selects a Vice Chair and 2nd Vice Chair. For this reporting period, Bonnie Dunham was elected as Chair. Maureen Tracey served as Vice Chair, with Janet Reed as 2nd Vice Chair. For the upcoming year, Maureen Tracey was elected to serve as Chair, with Bonnie Dunham as her Vice Chair and a 2nd Vice Chair to be selected.

Meetings and Organization

RSA 186-C:3-b,V describes the requirements for the frequency of State Advisory Committee meetings. The SAC appreciates the support provided by the NH Department of Education in accordance with RSA 186-C:3-B, VI:

V. The committee shall meet at least quarterly or as often as necessary to conduct its business.

VI. The department of education shall provide administrative support for the committee.

The NH State Advisory Committee meets monthly during the school year. The schedule for SAC meetings, as well as minutes for previous meetings, is posted on the NH Department of Education's website at http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac.htm (SAC's dedicated page), and in House and Senate calendars, published during the legislative session. Information may also be obtained by contacting the NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education at (603) 271-3741.

All meetings are open to the general public, and unless otherwise noted, are held at the NH Department of Education, Londergan Hall, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Every meeting includes opportunities for public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting. The SAC appreciates the input the general public provides by commenting on the committee's priorities and/or other issues they wish to bring to the committee's attention. In addition to speaking at a SAC meeting during the public comment segments of the agenda, interested persons may also provide written input to the SAC, either by letter or email. Telephone messages may be relayed through the Bureau of Special Education. The State Advisory Committee respectfully requests that persons wishing to comment publicly at a SAC meeting please follow the guidelines below:

- Be factual and objective; please do not mention a student and/or school staff by name; and
- Limit comments to no more than five minutes. For issues needing more extensive discussion, requests may be made to add it to the agenda at a subsequent SAC meeting.
- The SAC appreciates hearing about positive experiences, "success stories", and best practices, as well as concerns with the status of the education of children with disabilities, new or emerging needs, or situations that may warrant further consideration;
- Please note that the SAC is not able to intervene in situations having to do with individual students, but to the extent these issues may have broad implications for children with disabilities (even if limited to a specific age or disability group, geographic area, or topic), the SAC appreciates the public's assistance in making the SAC aware of the issue(s).

While the SAC appreciates the support it receives from the Bureau of Special Education staff, the SAC operates as an independent entity with its composition and responsibilities mandated by statute. Bureau staff is available to clarify the DOE's procedures; explain programs and/or initiatives; provide technical assistance, administrative support, statistical data, and other background information and documentation requested by the SAC.

Minutes are taken at each State Advisory Committee meeting; they are distributed in draft form by email to each SAC member and approved at the next meeting. Approved minutes are posted on the NH Department of Education's website on the designated SAC web page. Hard copies of the minutes are distributed at the next meeting, and are also available from the Bureau of Special Education upon request.

Each September the State Advisory Committee conducts an annual retreat. The 2015 SAC retreat was held at Plymouth State College branch campus, 2 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH. In addition to the retreat, the SAC held regular meetings in monthly, from October through June to share information and resources, discuss concerns, gather information and develop/make recommendations on issues related to SAC's statutory responsibilities.

Meeting agendas always include welcome and introductions of members and guests; review and approval of minutes from the prior meeting; public comment at the beginning and end of the meeting; announcements and correspondence to the SAC; current events; an update from the State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education ("the Bureau"); old business and new business; reports from subcommittees and, unless a guest speaker has been scheduled, an opportunity for subcommittees to meet; and presentations by the Bureau or other invited guests, as requested by SAC members to assist the committee in the fulfillment of its responsibilities.

SAC may conduct its work as a single body, or through subcommittees that focus on identified priority issues, as determined by the full SAC. When subcommittees are utilized, each SAC member, with the exception of representatives from the House and Senate Education committees, who contribute substantial amounts of time in service to the State of NH as members of the General Court. Instead, all SAC members rely on information provided by our members from the General Court to inform their work on the subcommittees. As needed, subcommittees also formed to work on gathering and reporting on legislative issues and to identify and recruit members to fill vacancies on the State Advisory Committee.

Members of the State Advisory Committee bring feedback, issues and concerns from the stakeholder groups they represent to the SAC. The committee is then able to discern if the issue is one that falls under the SAC's purview, or if there may be another, more appropriate agency/organization to which the individual/group raising the issue may be referred. If the committee decides that the issue is relevant to SAC's statutory responsibilities and the priorities that have been identified by the year, a follow-up plan is developed.

Activities / Accomplishments of the SAC

During the period covered by this report, the State Advisory Committee and its members:

- Increased the membership of the SAC, so that the committee is now nearly fully staffed.
- Were made aware of NH Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education's projects and initiatives. SAC members use that information to promote awareness of, and participation in, NH DOE special education-focused initiatives.
- Provided testimony to the State Board of Education on the proposed Ed 1100 Rules, "*The NH Rules for the Education of Children with Disabilities*". SAC members reviewed, discussed and through consensus votes, developed and submitted extensive testimony on each of the areas where changes were being proposed.
- SAC learned from SAC member Karen Rosenberg (representative from the DRC– NH) and Santina Thibedeau about serious issues that occurred at Lakeview Neuro-Rehabilitation Center, and which led to the commissioner ordering the cessation of the facility's special education program. SAC members expressed their support for the commissioner's decision. A copy of the letter from the commissioner ordering the cessation of special education services may be found in Appendix D.
- Designated 2 SAC members to serve as representatives to the NH DOE's Indicator 8 Parent Survey Stakeholder group.
- Developed a draft of By-Laws for the State Advisory Committee, which members are now reviewing so that a final product can be approved at the start of the upcoming SAC meeting year (see Appendix E).
- SAC members received an in-depth training presentation on the history, role, responsibilities, and best practices of State Advisory Panels (Committees) by John Copenhaver from the Federally-funded Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE), which is based in Utah. SAC used this presentation and the resources provided by the speaker to inform our decisions on bylaws and other organizational matters.

More detailed information about SAC's activities during this reporting period may be found in SAC minutes, which are maintained on the NH Department of Education's website.

Appendix A:

Membership & Roles

A Copy of a Welcome Letter Sent to New Members

“Getting to Know the State Advisory Committee” Fact Sheet

**Contact Information for Members of the State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children with Disabilities
Membership List – (All members are appointed by the Governor, unless noted otherwise) – Updated July 1, 2016**

Includes commentary regarding attendance

2 members of the House education committee, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives	Representative John (Jack) Balcolm (V. Chair of Education Committee)	85 Pond View Drive Merrimack, NH 03054-4158 (603) 424-8422 john.balcolm@leg.state.nh.us	Term continues until replaced by the appointing legislative body (current term expires 2016) <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
	Representative Mary Heath	76 Island Pond Road Manchester, NH 03109-4806 (603) 622-0895 Mary.Heath@leg.state.nh.us	Term continues until replaced by the appointing legislative body (current term expires 2016) <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
2 members of the Senate education committee, appointed by the President of the Senate	Senator Nancy Stiles	Legislative Office Building, Room 103-A 33 North State Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3093 (office) / 601-6591 (h) nancy.stiles@leg.state.nh.us nstiles@comcast.net	Term continues until replaced by the appointing legislative body (current term expires 2016) <i>Attended several meetings; provided input to the SAC for other meetings</i>
	Senator Molly Kelley	Statehouse, Rm 120, 107 North Main St. Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3207 molly.kelly@leg.state.nh.us	Term continues until replaced by the appointing legislative body (current term expires 2016)
One state education official	Lisa Hatz, State Director, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation	NH Department of Education 21 Fruit Street, Suite 20 Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3471(V/TTY) Lisa.Hatz@doe.nh.gov	Term expires 5/4/2017 <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
One local education official, who shall be an administrator	Heather Worthen, Director of Student Services	SAU #43, 9 Depot Street ~ Suite 2 Newport, NH 03773 (603) 863-3710, ext. 226 hworthen@sau43.org	<i>Heather was unable to attend this year due to professional scheduling conflicts.</i>
One Administrator of a public special education program	Jean Parsons, Director of Special Education	SAU # 31, 186A Main Street Newmarket, NH 03857-1838 Telephone: (603) 659-5618 Fax: 659-5022 parsonsj@newmarket.k12.nh.us	Renewal is in process <i>Attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
One representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to students with disabilities			Vacancy

Membership Requirement:	Name	Contact Information	Term / Notes
2 teachers, one of whom shall be a special education teacher	Kerri-Lynn Kimner, Regular Education Teacher	Amherst/Mont Vernon School District- SAU #39, PO Box 849 Amherst, NH 03031 (603) 345-7228 kkimner@sprise.com	Term expires 4/18/2017 Kerri-Lynn Is also a parent <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>
			Vacancy
1 representative of the dept. of health and human services involved in the financing or delivery of special education or related services to children with disabilities, recommended by the commissioner of the department of health and human services	Michelle Rosado, Program Specialist IV	DHHS, Bureau of Developmental Svcs., Community Based Care Svcs. 105 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-5154 mrosado@dhhs.state.nh.us	Renewal is in process
One representative of the Disabilities Rights Center, recommended by the DRC	Karen Rosenberg, Senior Staff Attorney	Disability Rights Center – NH 64 N Main Street, Suite 2 Concord, NH 03301-4913 (603) 228-0432 (office) karenr@drcnh.org	Term expires 12/22/17 <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>
One representative of the Parent Information Center, recommended by the Parent Information Center	Bonnie Dunham, Vice Chair	Parent Information Center 54 Old Suncook Road Concord, NH 03301 (603) 224-7005 (w) / 860-5445 (c) bdunham@picnh.org bsdunham12@gmail.com (home)	Term expires 5/4/17 Bonnie is also a parent, but of a child with a disability who is over age 26 <i>Attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
One representative of an institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel	Naomi Schoenfeld, Ph.D. Associate Professor Special Education	Rivier University 420 South Main Street Nashua, NH 03060 (603) 897-8563 nschoenfeld@rivier.edu	Nominated 4/6/2016 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
One representative of a private school approved for special education	Janet Reed, The RSEC Academy	The RSEC Academy PO Box 370 / 31Old Nashua Rd. Amherst, NH 03031 (603)673-6656-(w) / (603)660-0734-(c) / (603)529-3358-(h) jreed@rsec.org	Term expires 7/16/16 <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>

Membership Requirement:	Name	Contact Information	Term / Notes
A state and a local educational official who are responsible for performing activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. section 11431, et seq, appointed by the governor.	Lynda Thistle-Elliott	NH Department of Education Office of Integrated Programs 101 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-3840 lynda.thistleelliott@doe.nh.us	Term expires 10/14/16 <i>Attended at least 70% of meetings</i>
	Mary Ellen Pantazis Assistant Principal for Special Education	Hudson Memorial School 20 Library Street Hudson, NH 03051 (603) 886-1240 ext. 1801 mpantazis@sau81.org	Term expires 10/30/16 Mary Ellen is also a parent <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
A representative from the department of health and human services responsible for foster care, recommended by the commissioner of the department of health and human services	Eileen Mullen Kennedy	Dept. of Health & Human Svcs Division of Children & Youth 129 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 603-271-4343 emullen@dhhs.state.nh.us	Term expires 1/18/17 <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
A representative from the state juvenile corrections agency (membership category required by IDEA)	Violetta Lortie	Sununu Youth Services Center 1056 North River Road Manchester, NH 03104 vlortie@dhhs.state.nh.us	Term Expires 2/6/2017 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
One representative from the department of corrections, and one representative from a county correctional facility, both of whom are responsible for administering the provision of special education or special education and related services	Ann Davis, Education Director	Corrections Special School Dist. NH Department of Corrections 281 North State Street Concord, NH 03301 603-271-1855 anne.davis@doc.nh.gov	Anne was nominated 1/2016 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended at the majority of meetings</i>
	Jason Henry, Carroll County HOC	Carroll County Dept. of Corrections 95 Water Village Road Ossipee, NH 03864 (603) 539-2282 x 2002 jhenry@cchoc.net	Term expires 12/28/2017 <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
One individual representing children with disabilities who are home schooled (also counts under the parent category)	Gary Carpenter	39 Lounsbury Lane Peterborough, NH 03458 (603) 924-5930 GCARPENTER_690@comcast.net	Nominated 5/2014 – Status uncertain Gary is also a parent <i>Did not attend meetings this year</i>

Membership Requirement:	Name	Contact Information	Term / Notes
One representative of a public charter school	Kim Carter CEO	Making Community Connections Chartered Public School 149 Emerald St., Suite UP3 Keene, NH 03431 kim.carter@mc2school.org	Nominated 4/6/2016 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended the majority of meetings</i>
Two individuals with disabilities who may have received special education services, student A simple majority of the members of the committee shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children/students with disabilities one of whom may be a high school	Kestrel Cole-McCrea	60 Ford Farm Road, Milton NH 03851 (603) 652-7594 kestrelcole@yahoo.com	Term expires 2/15/16 <i>Attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
	Sarah Cooley	<i>Term expired – Did not renew – Did not attend meetings this year</i>	
	Mackenzie Burke	6 Pine Crest Road Bow, NH 03304 (603) 860-7015 (c) burkemrsec@gmail.com	– B Dunham sent email 6/1/16 Mackenzie would like to continue renewal in process
	Patrick Curtin	34 Brickyard Drive Litchfield, NH 03052 (603) 809-1742 Pcurtin13@aol.com	Term expires 11/28/16
	Jack Curtin	Address – same as above (603) 689-6413 Jcurtin01@aol.com	Term expires 11/28/16
	John Jackson	<i>Resigned 6/1/2016 – Did not attend meetings this year</i>	
Parents of children with disabilities A simple majority of the members of the committee shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children/students with disabilities (continued on next page)	Lisa Beaudoin	242 General Miller Highway Temple, NH 03084 (603) 878-0459 lisa@herbanlivingfarm.org	Term expires 8/1/16 <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>
	Ellen Boudreau	37 Garden Street Manchester, NH 03103 (603) 627-6787 / (603) 703-6781- cell ellenaboudreau@yahoo.com	Term expires 8/1/16 Has resigned
	Audrey Burke	6 Pine Crest Road Bow, NH 03304 (603) 860-7015 (c) Burke.audrey@gmail.com	Term expired; – B Dunham sent email 6/1/16 Audrey would like to continue renewal in process
	Heidi Cloutier	UNH Institute on Disability (IOD) 56 Old Suncook Road, Suite #2 Concord, NH 03301 (603) 228-2084 x41(w) / (930-9972 (h) Heidi.Cloutier@unh.edu	Term expires 5/4/16 Renewal is in process <i>Attended at least 70% of meetings</i>

Membership Requirement:	Name	Contact Information	Term / Notes
Parents of children with disabilities A simple majority of the members of the committee shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children/students with disabilities (continued from previous page)	Candace Cole-McCrea	60 Ford Farm Road Milton, NH 03851 (603) 652-7594 snowyowl@metrocast.net	Term expires 10/14/16 <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>
	Donna Curtin	34 Brickyard Drive Litchfield, NH 03052 (603) 689-6413 Jcurtin01@aol.com	Term expires 10/14/16 <i>Attended the majority of meetings</i>
	Adrienne Evans	Resigned 6/1/2016 – Did not attend meetings this year	
	Tom Grinley	NH DHHS, Bureau of Behavioral Health 105 Pleasant Street Concord, NH 03301 (603) 271-5045 / TomGrinley@gmail.com Thomas, Grinley@dhhs.state.nh.us	Term expires 8/21/16
	Jacqueline Kelleher		Nominated 4/6/2016 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
	Denise Maher	56 Mcphail Street Manchester, NH 03104 Dmc4mhr@comcast.net	Term expires 11/28/16 Status uncertain – B Dunham sent email 6/1/16
	Sue Marcotte-Jenkins	11 Hope Lane Bow, NH 03304 (603) 228-3967 Jenkins913@comcast.net	Resigned 6/3/2016 Sue was SAC's liaison to the ICC <i>Attended at least 80% of meetings</i>
	Mike Pinard	32 Jacob Ave Hooksett, NH 03106 (603) 622-8137 / (C) 661-7540 mikepinard@comcast.net	Term expires 6/1/17 <i>Attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
	Maureen Shields	68 Howe Lane Hollis, NH 03049 (603) 880-4359 maureenshields@charter.net	Term expires 1/21/2019 <i>Was appointed mid-year; then attended at least 90% of meetings</i>
	Maureen Tracey, SAC Chair	17 Burt Street Merrimack, NH 03054 (603) 424-9175 / (603) 320-0733 (c) Maurentracey3@hotmail.com	Term expires 6/11/17 Maureen is also a certified educator <i>Attended at least 90% of meetings</i>

Membership Status: As of June 1, 2016, SAC has 35 members (including 4 legislative members). The current membership meets the statutory requirement that a simple majority of members be individuals with disabilities or parents of children/students with disabilities.

Vacancies:

5. One local education official, who shall be an administrator
6. One special education teacher
7. A representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to students with disabilities
8. An individual representing children with disabilities who are home schooled

Additional parent members would ensure that SAC continues to meet the statutory requirement.

In Appreciation:

We wish to recognize SAC members whose terms have ended or who have moved on during this reporting period, for their service: Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Gary Carpenter, Sarah Cooley, John Jackson, Adrienne Evans, and Ellen Boudreau; and Senators Nancy Stiles and Molly Kelley who are not seeking re-election this year.

Welcome Letter From the State Advisory Committee For Children with Disabilities

Advising the Governor and Legislature;

Per RSA 186-C:3-b

(SAC)

Dear _____,

As Chair of the NH State Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Education of Children/ Students with Disabilities, I want to welcome you to the State Advisory Committee for Students/Children with Disabilities. We are always glad when a new member joins, as we find that new members bring new points of view and backgrounds to our committee.

I understand that as a new member it can take a little bit of time to get acclimated and feel completely at ease at SAC meetings. I hope that this packet of material, and the SAC new member orientation (offered to all new members); will help make your entrance onto the committee a smooth and positive experience.

SAC meetings are currently held on the first Wednesday of each month during the school year, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, at the Department of Education, in room 15. If the date or location of a meeting changes, members will be notified by email, sent by Terry Stafford. The “snow day” policy is to cancel the SAC meeting if the Concord school district has cancelled school or if they have cancelled evening activities. During the winter months, SAC schedules “snow days”, generally for the following Wednesday so that the monthly meeting can still be held. Any of SAC’s meeting policies, or meeting times may be modified by vote by the committee.

All SAC members serve on a subcommittee, which meets as part of our monthly meetings. Occasionally the SAC or a subcommittee may decide to hold a meeting or forum outside of the regularly scheduled meeting, in which case we understand if a member is unable to attend. Subcommittees focus on topics or priorities identified by the SAC membership. Members are encouraged to join a subcommittee based on their interests and experiences. SAC members often report that they find the discussions at SAC and subcommittee meetings to be very interesting and relevant to their personal or work experiences. We look forward to having you join us.

Again, WELCOME to SAC!

Maureen Tracey, Chair

State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children/Students with Disabilities

Contact: SAC_Chair@doe.nh.gov

Getting to Know

New Hampshire's State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children/Students with Disabilities



Who is the State Advisory Committee (SAC)?

The State Advisory Committee on the Education of Children/Students with Disabilities is a group of stakeholders who play an essential role, assisting the NH Department of Education by advising them about the unmet needs of children with disabilities. The SAC also promotes communication and cooperation among individuals involved with students with disabilities.

SAC is comprised of at least 50% parents of children with disabilities and individuals with disabilities (including students who are, or who have, received special education). Other members include educators, school administrators, legislators and representatives of agencies and organizations that support the education of NH children with disabilities. A complete list of members may be found on the SAC's page on the NH Department of Education's website at: http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac.htm.

Why does NH have a State Advisory Committee?

The Federal special education law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act requires every state to have a State Advisory Panel to advise the State Department of Education on the unmet needs of children with disabilities.

What are the State Advisory Committee's responsibilities?

SAC's responsibilities include:

- Advise the NH Department of Education (DOE) regarding the unmet needs of children with disabilities within NH;
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and the State Legislature on the status of education of students with disabilities in NH;
- Comment publicly on the state plan and rules or regulations proposed for issuance by the state regarding the education of children/students with disabilities;
- Assist the state in developing and reporting such information and evaluations as may assist the U.S. Secretary of Education in the performance of responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA);
- Advise the DOE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports;
- Advise the DOE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children/students with disabilities;
- Advise the DOE on the education of eligible incarcerated adult students with disabilities; and
- Reviewing the federal financial participation and the level of state funding to determine their impact on the programs and delivery of services to children/students with disabilities throughout the state.

How can I learn more about the SAC?

Additional information about the State Advisory Committee, including a schedule of upcoming meetings and minutes from previous meetings may be found on the SAC's page on the NH Department of Education's website at: http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac.htm. Email inquiries may be made to the SAC chair at: SAC_Chair@doe.nh.gov. Individuals without email access may call the NH Department of Education's Special Education Bureau at (603) 271-3741 to relay a message to the SAC chair. All meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for public comment.

Appendix B:

Minutes of SAC Meetings Held During this Reporting Period

May be found at:

http://education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/sac/sac_meet_min.htm#meet

Appendix C

Summary information from NH's SPP/APR

and the

6/2016 Determination Letter and Link to Data Display



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

June 28, 2016

Honorable Virginia M. Barry
Commissioner of Education
New Hampshire Department of Education
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Commissioner Barry:

I am writing to advise you of the U. S. Department of Education's (Department) 2016 determination under section 616 of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. The Department has determined that New Hampshire meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the *IDEA*. This determination is based on the totality of the State's data and information, including the Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2014 State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR), other State-reported data, and other publicly available information.

Your State's 2016 determination is based on the data reflected in the State's "2016 Part B Results-Driven Accountability Matrix" (RDA Matrix). The RDA Matrix is individualized for each State and consists of:

- (1) a Compliance Matrix that includes scoring on Compliance Indicators and other compliance factors;
- (2) a Results Matrix that includes scoring on Results Elements;
- (3) a Compliance Score and a Results Score;
- (4) an RDA Percentage based on both the Compliance Score and the Results Score; and
- (5) the State's Determination.

The RDA Matrix is further explained in a document, entitled "How the Department Made Determinations under Section 616(d) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 2016: Part B" (HTDMD).

OSEP is continuing to use both results data and compliance data in making determinations in 2016, as it did for Part B determinations in 2014 and 2015. (The specifics of the determination procedures and criteria are set forth in the HTDMD and reflected in the RDA Matrix for your State.) In making Part B determinations in 2016, OSEP continued to use results data related to:

- (1) the participation of children with disabilities (CWD) on regular Statewide assessments;
- (2) the participation and performance of CWD on the most recently administered (school year 2014-2015) National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP);
- (3) the percentage of CWD who graduated with a regular high school diploma; and

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- (4) the percentage of CWD who dropped out.

You may access the results of OSEP's review of your State's SPP/APR and other relevant data by accessing the SPP/APR module using your State-specific log-on information at osep.grads360.org. When you access your State's SPP/APR on the site, you will find, in Indicators 1 through 16, the OSEP Response to the indicator and any actions that the State is required to take. The actions that the State is required to take are in two places:

- (1) any actions related to the correction of findings of noncompliance are in the "OSEP Response" section of the indicator; and
- (2) any other actions that the State is required to take are in the "Required Actions" section of the indicator.

It is important for you to review the Introduction to the SPP/APR, which may also include an OSEP response and/or Required Actions.

You will also find all of the following important documents saved as attachments to the Progress Page:

- (1) the State's RDA Matrix;
- (2) the HTDMD document;
- (3) a spreadsheet entitled "2016 Data Rubric Part B," which shows how OSEP calculated the State's "Timely and Accurate State-Reported Data" score in the Compliance Matrix;
- (4) a document entitled "Dispute Resolution 2014-15," which includes the *IDEA* section 618 data that OSEP used to calculate the State's "Timely State Complaint Decisions" and "Timely Due Process Hearing Decisions" scores in the Compliance Matrix; and
- (5) a Data Display, which presents certain State-reported data in a transparent, user-friendly manner and is helpful for the public in getting a broader picture of State performance in key areas.

As noted above, the State's 2016 determination is Meets Requirements. A State's 2016 RDA Determination is Meets Requirements if the RDA Percentage is at least 80%, unless the Department has imposed Special Conditions on the State's last three *IDEA* Part B grant awards (for FFYs 2013, 2014, and 2015), and those Special Conditions are in effect at the time of the 2016 determination.

States were required to submit Phase II of the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) by April 1, 2016. OSEP appreciates the State's ongoing work on its SSIP and its efforts to improve results for students with disabilities. We have carefully reviewed your submission and will provide feedback in the upcoming weeks. Additionally, OSEP will continue to work with your State as it develops Phase III of the SSIP, due April 3, 2017.

As a reminder, your State must report annually to the public, by posting on the State educational agency's (SEA's) Web Site, the performance of each local educational agency (LEA) located in the State on the targets in the SPP/APR as soon as practicable, but no later than 120 days after the State's submission of its FFY 2014 SPP/APR. In addition, your State must:

- (1) review LEA performance against targets in the State's SPP/APR;

- (2) determine if each LEA “meets the requirements” of Part B, or “needs assistance,” “needs intervention,” or “needs substantial intervention” in implementing Part B of the *IDEA*;
- (3) take appropriate enforcement action; and
- (4) inform each LEA of its determination.

Further, your State must make its SPP/APR available to the public by posting it on the SEA’s Web site. Within the next several days, OSEP will be finalizing a State Profile for your State that:

- (1) will be accessible to the public;
- (2) includes links to a PDF of the State’s SPP/APR, including all of the State’s and OSEP’s attachments; and
- (3) the State may use to make its SPP/APR accessible to the public.

We will provide you with the link to that profile when it is live.

OSEP appreciates the State’s efforts to improve results for children and youth with disabilities and looks forward to working with your State over the next year as we continue our important work of improving the lives of children with disabilities and their families. If you have any questions, would like to discuss this further, or want to request technical assistance, please contact Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus, your OSEP State lead, at 202-245-8417.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ruth E. Ryder

Ruth E. Ryder
Acting Director
Office of Special Education Programs

cc: State Director of Special Education

The Part B Data Display may be found at:

<https://osep.grads360.org/services/PDCService.svc/GetPDCDocumentFile?fileId=20408>

Excerpt from the NH Department of Education’s June 28, 2016 Determination Letter from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) – “I am writing to advise you of the U. S. Department of Education's (Department) 2016 determination under section 616 of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. The Department has determined that New Hampshire meets the requirements and purposes of Part B of the *IDEA*.

