

Speakers should keep the following guidelines in mind when making public comment.

State Special Education Advisory Committee Guidelines for Public Comment (Adopted April 27, 2006, revised July 13, 2006)

The State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) welcomes public comment at each of its regular meetings. SSEAC members use comments from the public and other information sources to advise the Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Department of Education of the unmet educational needs of children with disabilities in the state. Among the other information sources used by the SSEAC to identify issues and solutions are the state performance plan, annual reports, and local school division reports. These reports are available on the Virginia Department of Education's Web site www.doe.virginia.gov.

1. The total time allotted to public comment will generally be thirty (30) minutes. Each public comment is limited to 3 minutes.
2. Those wishing to speak should contact Ms. Cathy Pomfrey by phone at 804-225-3252, TTY-toll free 800-422-1098, TTY-local 804-371-2822 or by E-mail at Cathy.Pomfrey@doe.virginia.gov to be scheduled to speak. Speakers should request special accommodations, if needed.
3. Public comment can be provided in person or may be forwarded to a SSEAC member to read at the meeting. Written copies of comments are helpful. A single copy may be handed to the secretary and if desired, multiple copies (23 for members and staff) may be distributed at the meeting.
4. The SSEAC does not respond directly to public comment at the meeting, except to ask clarifying questions.
5. The topics of public comment are included in the SSEAC's meeting minutes. Public comment will become part of the public record and accessible to anyone wishing to review the minutes of the SSEAC meetings. Speakers should withhold information they do not wish to make public.
6. Virginia Department of Education staff members serve as consultants to the SSEAC. If the public comment involves student- or school-specific information, staff will contact the speaker to determine appropriate follow-up.

More information on the SSEAC is available from the Virginia Department of Education, Special Education and Student Services Office by phone at 804-225-3252, TTY-toll free 800-422-1098, TTY-local 804-371-2822 and at the Web site: www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/Sped/sseac.html.