

Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee

FACT SHEET

PURPOSE:

The SSEAC is organized and functions in accordance with state and federal requirements. The Committee's functions include the following:

- defining plans for identifying children with disabilities;
- formulating and developing long-range plans that will provide services for children with disabilities;
- determining the unmet needs of children with disabilities within the state;
- developing priorities and strategies for meeting identified needs of children with disabilities;
- reviewing and making public comment on the State Improvement Plan, the procedures for the distribution of funds under Part B of IDEA, and any rules or regulations proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- review findings and decisions regarding due process procedures for parents and children;
- advise the state in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports; and
- prepare and submit an annual report to the Virginia Board of Education.

MEMBERSHIP:

The SSEAC is composed of representatives of stakeholder groups as prescribed by IDEA. A majority of the members must be individuals with a disability or parents of children with a disability eligible to receive services under IDEA. Members are appointed by the Virginia Board of Education. Members serve without compensation; however members are reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending meetings.

ORGANIZATION:

The activities of the SSEAC are governed by the Board of Education by-laws. The SSEAC year runs from July 1 to June 30. Several subcommittees are established to help conduct the work of the committee. Members are assigned to a subcommittee and a member of the executive committee chairs each subcommittee. Department of Education staff members are available to each of the Subcommittees to provide technical assistance.

MEETINGS:

The SSEAC meets in regular session four times a year. Each regular session generally consists of one full day meeting followed by a half-day meeting the next day. Subcommittees and the executive committee meet as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. Each regular meeting includes a public comment period.

Questions regarding the Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee should be directed to Mr. H. Douglas Cox, Assistant Superintendent Division of Special Education and Student Services at (804) 225-3252 or email: Doug.Cox@doe.virginia.gov or Dr. Patricia Abrams, Director, Office of Special Education Instructional Services at (804) 225-2707 or email: Pat.Abrams@doe.virginia.gov.