

# State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC)

## *2012-2013 Annual Report to the Virginia Board of Education*

*October 24, 2013*

### *Presenters:*

*John Eisenberg, Assistant Superintendent*

*Lori Jackson Black, Chair*

*Darren Minarik, Vice Chair*



# Committee Organization

- Represents various stakeholder groups
- Required by state and federal regulations
- Purpose is to advise the Board of Education
- SSEAC year commences on July 1 and ends on June 30

# Committee Organization

- Subcommittees
  - policy and regulations
  - student achievement
  - student outcomes
- Presentations
- Assistant Superintendent's Report
- Public Comments
- Constituency Reports

# Commendations

- ***Leadership***

- Commitment to outcomes and achievement for students with disabilities
- I'm Determined Project
- Transportation issues
- Innovative approaches
- Proposed teacher licensure revisions
- Private School Regulations

# Commendations

- ***Educational Resources***
  - Guidance related to credit accommodations
  - Creation and dissemination of training and resources aimed at parents and families of students with disabilities

# Commendations

- ***Advocacy***

- grant funding to the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) to support their outreach to Latino Families
- the I'm Determined Project for increasing self-advocacy and public awareness

# Recommendations

## *Diplomas and Assessments*

- The SSEAC recommends that VDOE increase the requirements to obtain the special diploma to better support successful postsecondary outcomes in areas such as employment, education, training and independent living.
- The SSEAC appreciates work that has been done on credit accommodation guidance, but continues to recommend that VDOE develop a guide to explain testing and the impact on diploma options. We further recommend that this guide be required to be distributed no later than the second grade and annually thereafter.

# Recommendations

## *Inclusive Education*

- The SSEAC recommends that the VDOE create a checklist or similar document that identifies exemplary inclusive practices and allows schools to assess themselves in this area.
- The SSEAC recommends that the VDOE work to ensure that all documents and communication use people first language so that it becomes a model for localities.

# Recommendations

## *Transition*

- The SSEAC was encouraged to hear about the development of the Center for Transition Innovations at VCU. Considering the centralized location of the Center, the SSEAC recommends that the Center address the needs of all regions of the Commonwealth.
- The SSEAC also recommends that transition be addressed as early as possible across all areas in a student's school career.
- The SSEAC further recommends the exploration of diverse and coordinated fiscal resources in partnership with multiple agencies to support transition.

# Conclusion

- The SSEAC appreciates the opportunity to provide advice to the Board of Education and hopes that the recommendations are implemented without delay.