



Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

**Annual Report
2015-2016**

Robin Greenfield, Ph.D., Chair

Brandy Funk, Vice-Chair

The Purpose of SEAP

In accordance with Section 300.167-300.169 of the final regulations of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004* (IDEA) each state is required to establish and maintain an advisory council for the purpose of providing guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

The responsibilities of Idaho's Special Education Advisory Panel, as defined by IDEA are as follows:

- Advise the State Department of Education (SDE) of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise to the SDE in developing evaluations and reporting data to the U.S. Secretary of Education;
- Advise the SDE in developing and implementing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;
- Advise the SDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the funding and/or coordination of services of students with disabilities;
- Advise the SDE on the education of students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons; and
- Advise the SDE on its comprehensive system of personnel development function to aid in recruiting, preparing, and retaining qualified personnel.

SEAP Membership Requirements

Categories of Required Representation

Excerpts from IDEA 20 U.S.C. 1412(a) (21) (A) (B) (D)

(21) State Advisory Panel –

(A) In General – The State has established and maintains an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State.

(B) Membership – Such advisory panel shall consist of members appointed by the Governor or any other official authorized under State law to make such appointments, be representative of the State population, and be composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including --

1. Parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26);
2. Individuals with disabilities;
3. Teachers;
4. Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
5. State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under Subtitle B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.);
6. Administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
7. Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
8. Representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
9. Not less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;
10. A representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and
11. Representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

Special rule. A majority of the members of the panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through 26).
(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1412(a)(21)(B) and (C))

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

Membership List 2015-2016

First Name	Last Name	Term	Email Address	Representation
Keith	Allred	*2014-2016 Historian	keithallred1@boisestate.edu	Higher Education (BSU)
Kathie	Benjamin	2015-2018	stannkat@cableone.net	Parent (Nampa)
Amy	Clark	2015-2018	AClark@cdaschools.org	SPED Director – Coeur d’Alene SD
Brian	Darcy	*2015-2018	brian.darcy@iesdb.org	Program Administrator State Education (IESDB)
Brandy	Funk	*2015-2018 Vice Chair	brandy.funk@gmail.com	Parent (Middleton)
Ruth	Garfield	*2015-2018	ruth@famielsttogether.org	Parent Transition Services
Robin	Greenfield	*2014-2017 Chair	rgreen@uidaho.edu	Program Administrator Higher Education (Uof I)
Jenn	Halladay	2015-2018	jenn_halladay_4@hotmail.com	Parent (Kuna)
Stephanie	Hoffman	2013-2016	hoffmans@dhw.idaho.gov	Agency Related Services
Angela	Lindig	*2015-2018 Secretary	angela@ipulidaho.org	Parent Agency Related Services
Alison	Lowenthal	2015-2018	Alison.Lowenthal@vr.idaho.gov	Vocational Rehab
Tina	Naillon	2015-2018	tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov	SDE VISTA/Rural/ Homeless Coordinator
Tonya	Maestretti	2015-2018	tkmaestretti@hotmail.com	Parent (Boise)
Rebecca	Maldonano	2015-2018	becky.maldonado@vallivue.org	SPED Teacher – Vallivue SD
Jill	Mathews	2014-2017	jmathews@sde.idaho.gov	SDE Family and Community Engagement
Ted	Oparnico	2013-2016	toparnic@idoc.idaho.gov	State Agency (IDOC)
Lisa	Perry	2015-2018	lperry@connectionseducation.com	Charter School – Inspire Charter
Marni	Porath	2015-2018	mcporath@hotmail.com	Parent (Twin Falls)
Richelle	Tierney	2015-2018	tierneyric@gmail.com	Parent (Nampa)

*Indicates second term

April 2016

SEAP Priorities 2015-2016

For the purpose of providing policy guidance to the Idaho State Department of Education with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, the following priorities were established for 2015-2016.

Priority 1: Assist the SDE with the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) in areas related to:

- ❖ **Identify community partners and strategies to provide parents with information about SSIP activities**

Outcomes: 1) An ongoing workgroup was established that gathered together resources throughout Idaho that can promote literacy activities and become resources for SSIP; 2) The workgroup developed awareness and methods for delivering information about SSIP activities to parents throughout the state. The information was provided to SSIP staff and included in the April 2016 federal report to the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education.

Providing assistance to SSIP staff will remain an ongoing priority.

Priority 2: Assist the SDE with Exploring Alternate Paths to Graduation

- ❖ **Research strategies used in other states for alternate paths to graduation**

Outcome: 1) A workgroup was formed to research alternate paths to graduation and provide SDE with findings. The workgroup reported on various states and how they design alternate paths to graduation.

A change in graduation requirements would require a change in Idaho Code. The SDE needs to determine if they want to go through the process of changing the Code.

This topic will not be an ongoing priority for SEAP until further discussion has been conducted at the SDE.

SEAP Highlights 2015 - 2016

The Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) met for four regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. The Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE) conducted the initial meeting of the year on September 14, 2015 and reviewed the purpose and functions of state advisory panels. Additional meetings were held on November 9, 2015, February 22, 2016, and May 2, 2016. Meeting minutes are posted at <http://sde.idaho.gov/sped/seap>

During the period covered in this report, Advisory Panel members participated in the following activities:

General Activities of the Panel

- * Participated in four meetings to carry out the work of the Panel.
- * Received updates from the ISDE concerning the Annual Performance Plan (APR) and the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP) and provided assistance on providing parents information and general information on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- * Reviewed dispute resolution data from the SDE Dispute Resolution Coordinator.
- * Reviewed and made suggestions for new SDE SEAP website.
- * Reviewed and finalized Idaho Part B Parent survey questions.
- * Reviewed and edited revised SEAP By-laws.
- * Participated in workgroups targeting SEAP priorities.
- * Conducted election of new officers.
- * Updated on panel members organizations and activities.

Executive Committee

- * Reviewed new member applications and made recommendations for SEAP membership.
- * Revised the By-laws of the Advisory Panel.
- * Revised online application for new SEAP members.
- * Set future SEAP meeting dates for September 12, 2016, November 14, 2016, February 13, 2017, and May 8, 2017. All meetings will be held at the Idaho State Department of Education.