

Avoyelles Parish School Board Special Education Council Annual Report 2024-25

What is the purpose of the (LEA) Special Education Advisory Council?

R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

SEAC Council Members for 2024-25:

MEMBER	ROLE
Dawn Pitre	Chair
Stacy Bordelon	Special Education Teacher
Jessica Johnson	Parent
Nicole Priester	Parent
Monica Laborde	Parent
Kelsey Devillier	Parent
Susan Fournett	Entity Representative that Serves SWDs
Aiden Priester	Student

2024-2025 Meetings- Agendas, Minutes

November 13, 2024	Avoyelles Parish School Board	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
February 27, 2025	Avoyelles Parish School Board	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
April 22, 2025	Avoyelles Parish School Board	<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Minutes</u>

Executive Summary:

Avoyelles Parish School System is comprised of 10 schools with a total enrollment of approximately 4812 students. Approximately 667 of those students qualify as a student with a

disability and receive special education and/or related services in accordance with Louisiana Bulletin 1508.

The Avoyelles Parish Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) met on the following dates at the Avoyelles Parish School Board Office:

November 13, 2024

February 27, 2025

April 22, 2025

1. Overview of Special Education in Avoyelles Parish

The Avoyelles Parish SEAC committee discussed the academic performance data of students with disabilities, noting that students increased an average in Mastery of +1 percent which was an increase from the previous year. Increase is strongly connected to students accessing Tier I curriculum and teachers trained in highly effective strategies such as Science of Reading.

2. Overview of Special Education Financial Data

Financial reports presented at the meetings included budgets from IDEA 619 (Pre-K) and IDEA-B. Key allocations discussed included salaries, benefits, professional/technical services, repairs and maintenance, travel, supplies, and property.

3. Compliance Violations Relative to Special Education

During the 2022-23 school year, Avoyelles Parish was identified by the Louisiana Department of Education as having discrepancies under Indicators 9 and 10 in the following areas:

- Hispanic/Latino students were 6.33 times more likely to be identified as a student with Autism
- Two or more races students were 3.3 times more likely to be identified as a student with an Emotional Disturbance
- Black or African American students were 2.62 more likely to be identified as a student with an Intellectual Disability.

In response, APSD completed the required Self Assessment rubric and conducted a comprehensive review in order to determine if policies, procedures, and practices were aligned with IDEA requirements.

4. Highlights and accomplishments of SEAC

Highlights and accomplishments of SEAC include:

- Participating in parent outreach activity, “Save Cenla, Into the Light” 5K Walk/Run
- Increasing the number of students and vendors attending the annual Transition Fair held in April of 2025
- Founding of the *Cajun Crossroads Classic, Crossing the Finish Line One Hurdle at a Time* event, whereby students with disabilities participated in competitive sports games
- Collaboration with Families Helping Families to provide resources for families of students with disabilities

5. Areas of Improvement

- Encourage SEAC meetings to become more member-led, rather than chairperson-led.
- Continued efforts to increase parental participation

6. Next steps

- Advertise for new members to apply for SEAC membership. This will be done on our Avoyelles Facebook page as well as our APSB website. Those interested can also obtain a paper copy at the APSB central office located at 221 Tunica Drive, Marksville, LA 71351.
- Have SEAC informational booth at Back to School Engagement Fair on July 14, 2025.

7. Timelines/ Upcoming Activities:

- The timeline for application for SEAC will begin in May and will end on June 30, 2025.
- SEAC will have an informational booth at our Back to School Engagement fair on July 14, 2025.

9. Explain how parent engagement is encouraged throughout the school system and what activities are sought to promote parent engagement.

Parent engagement is encouraged throughout the school system for all parents, including students with disabilities. We encouraged parents to attend the Pre-K Christmas Open House, our annual Transitional Fair, as well as the *Cajun Crossroads Classic, Crossing the Finish Line One Hurdle at a Time*. Parents are also encouraged to attend Literacy Night, Numeracy Night, and the Parent Conference Day/Nights, as well as be active participants in the IEP team meetings.

HOW TO JOIN

In accordance with ACT 274, the Avoyelles Parish School District is seeking applicants to serve on the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) for Avoyelles Parish Schools. The purpose of the panel is to provide advice and recommendations regarding special education policies, procedures and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education. This is a volunteer position for a two-year term period. The panel must include at least 8 members, comprised of at least 50% parents or legal guardians of students with an exceptionality, other than gifted or talented, who are enrolled in the jurisdiction of the Avoyelles Parish School District and cannot be an employee, at least 1 teacher, principal, or paraprofessional who provides services to students with exceptionalities, and at least 10% stakeholders.

The application process will be open from May to June 30 of each school year if there are not the appropriate number of members according to statute.

Online applications are available below and should be submitted no later than July 1 of the current year.

For paper applications, click the following link. <https://content.myconnectsuite.com/api/documents/7b3fe163340141fbab2217de43fccfdf.pdf> or contact the Avoyelles Parish School Board Special Education Department at (318) 240-0207. All applications will be reviewed, and members will be appointed by Ms. Karen Tutor, Superintendent of Avoyelles Parish Schools, by September of the current school year.