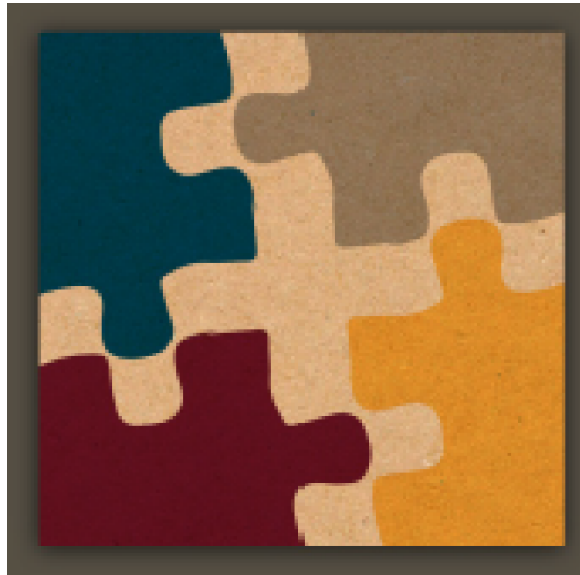




**LaSalle Parish School Board
Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
2019-2020 Annual Report**

Submitted June 15, 2020

Preface

The LaSalle Parish Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) respectfully submits the 2019-2020 annual report to the LaSalle Parish Superintendent and School Board. This annual report is a summary of the committee's activities and recommendations during the reporting period. The SEAP provides a broad base of input regarding policies, practices, and issues related to the education of students with disabilities ages 3 through 21.

This report fulfills the requirements set forth by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and ACT 274 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature.

2019-2020 SEAP Members

Member	Representative Role	Term
Crista Holland	Parent of child with disability	November 2019 -May 2021
Barby Jackson	Parent of child with disability	November 2019 -May 2021
Erin Masters	Educator	November 2019 -May 2021
Jenene Bignar	Special Education Stakeholder	November 2019 -May 2021

Recording Secretaries:
Sharon McKay and Heather Whatley

Vision

All learners, including students with disabilities, are respected and provided equitable opportunities to meet challenging educational expectations.

Statement of Purpose

To provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources and engage in outreach to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education. The intent of the SEAP is to provide thoughtful insight in support of students with disabilities.

SEAP Duties

The SEAP operates in compliance with state and federal requirements under the IDEA and ACT 274 of the 2019 Louisiana Legislature. The purpose of the SEAP is to identify emerging issues, and facilitate the provision of special education and related services to meet the unique needs of the eligible students in the following manner:

- Advise and provide feedback on special education topics and goals at the district level, including the needs and priorities of students with disabilities
- Advise and provide feedback on development and implementation of educational programs
- Serve as a source of information between the school district and families
- Provide a forum for the sharing of parent and staff ideas
- Inform members of proposed initiatives affecting special education
- Participate in annual report to the Superintendent
- Engage the community at large by promoting increased knowledge, awareness, and collaboration regarding special education.

SEAP Commitments

- We will review and analyze issues regarding students with disabilities and provide workable solutions based on research and evidence-based practices while taking into account the various needs of each of our schools.
- We will collaborate with stakeholders throughout our schools and communities and build partnerships across agencies and organizations to ensure the processes within the educational system supports the needs of the whole child.

Acknowledgement

The SEAP wishes to express our appreciation for the collaborative and effective relationship we have with the LaSalle Special Education Department. This relationship provides the SEAP with the information and opportunity to maintain a strong and open line of communication regarding the issues that are critical to the needs of students with disabilities who receive special education services in LaSalle Parish.

Additionally, the SEAP recognizes the tireless work of all LaSalle Parish School staff and especially the LPSB Special Education team. We appreciate the time spent with us sharing relevant data, ongoing work, and perspectives.

2019 - 2020 Priorities

The SEAP priorities in 2019-20 included:

- Review current data related to special education students, including academic performance, discipline rates, and services offered
- Explore the professional development systems for general education and special education staff
- Increase knowledge and awareness of issues impacting our students with disabilities, schools, and communities.

Recommendations for 2020 - 2021

The SEAP values our responsibility to make recommendations to the LaSalle Parish Superintendent on all matters related to special education and the needs of students with disabilities within LaSalle Parish.

In reviewing our priorities and reflecting on input we have received over this past year of work, we have identified the following actionable recommendations:

Recommendation 1: In-service Educator Training

In order to prepare school staff sufficiently, the SEAP recommends the continued commitment to provide targeted professional development based on the needs of our students and staff to ensure rigor and support the goal of building a well-equipped and diverse teacher workforce prepared to meet the needs of our learners.

The SEAP recommends that in-service professional development emphasize methods that focus on:

- Proactive intervention;
- Classroom management strategies rooted in Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS);
- Teaching with a focus on equity through the practices of Universal Design for Learning;
- Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS);
- The effective utilization and supervision of para-educators.

Recommendation 2: Transition Services

The SEAP recognizes the actions that LaSalle Parish Schools have taken to assist all students in transitioning between grades and schools. The SEAP proposes additional consideration to be given to address the needs of students with significant deficits. Therefore, the SEAP recommends that schools consider such actions as implementing school informative videos and determining means to improve communication between schools. School videos would help to prepare students by allowing them to view school grounds, locations within the school, and school staff prior to the school year.

Recommendation 3: Communication of Student's Needs/Parental Engagement

The SEAP recognizes the importance of communicating individual student needs to teachers, paraprofessionals, and other school staff involved in the student's daily activities while maintaining student privacy. This may include cafeteria staff, office personnel, substitute teachers, substitute paraprofessionals, etc. The SEAP recommends schools consider methods of communicating individual needs such as an "All about Me" brochure that could be shared with staff. Schools are encouraged to include families in this process as families should be seen as a valuable asset in improving outcomes for students.

Looking forward to 2020-2021

Working together is critically important to support students with disabilities in LaSalle Parish. This collaboration also helps all our efforts move forward. The SEAP will continue to recommend improvements within the special education system to improve outcomes for students.

The SEAP will determine priority focus for the 2020-2021 school year at the August SEAP meeting.

Appendix A: Schedule of Meetings

The SEAP met three times during the 2019–2020 school year. Notice of public meeting was posted on LaSalle Parish Special Education website and at the LaSalle Parish Special Education office. The meetings for the 2019–2020 school year were as follows:

Date	Location	Topics
December 12, 2019	LaSalle Special Education Office	• Reviewed: the SEAP purpose, handbook, and key duties. • Reviewed: LaSalle Special Education data including number of students with disabilities, services offered, district and staff personnel, and special education events. • Discussion regarding transition needs of students, communication of needs within the school setting, and access to adaptive playground equipment.
February 11, 2020	LaSalle Special Education Office	• Reviewed: Minutes from December SEAP meeting. • Reviewed and discussed: Academic data including school performance schools and subgroup performance; IDEA Part B and Part C funding and budget for the 2019-2020 SY. • Reviewed, discussed, and recommended proposing schools to implement “All about Me” brochures and school videos to assist students with significant deficits transitioning from one school to another.
April 23, 2020	Zoom Conference Call	• Reviewed and approved: Minutes from February SEAP meeting. • Discussed the impact of school closure on students with disabilities, Individualized Contingency Plans, and LaSalle Parish’s Action Plan regarding promotion and remediation. • Discussed SEAP Annual Report