



Special Education Advisory Council Charter

updated September 2023

Vision

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) provides proposals and feedback on initiatives aimed at supporting the Prior Lake- Savage Area Schools commitment to providing a quality continuum of services and supports for students with disabilities in order for students with disabilities to receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

Purpose

SEAC is a group that provides input on special education issues for our local school district and advises the school district on the development of programs and services to meet the special educational needs of children and families.

This committee will focus on the following areas during meetings:

- Promote collaboration within the district between the district and parents.
- To advise and advocate for students with disabilities and their parents.
- To collaborate with other parents and district staff to promote best practice models district-wide for students in special education.
- To inform, support and advise district staff, parents and students in regard to school success for students with disabilities.

Scope and Authority

- The SEAC provides feedback and guidance on behalf of students with disabilities in the Prior Lake-Savage Area School District.
- The SEAC makes recommendations that align with the district's mission and vision.
 - The SEAC will share recommendations within its areas of influence for actions that can be taken to advocate for and elevate student voice and increase family engagement for students with disabilities.

Time Commitment

- Members will meet for one hour four times per year.. Dates will be set prior to the school year with additional dates added as needed.
- Ad-hoc subcommittee meetings may also be needed based on the discretion of the Director of Student Support Services.
- Committee members and staff attend the majority of the meetings. Guest presenters and others attend at the request of the Director of Student Support Services.

Membership

Membership is open to all educators and parents/caregivers of students with disabilities. At least half of the council should be parents of students with a disability. The council should also include at least one member who is a parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability, or an employee of a nonpublic school if no parent of a nonpublic school student with a disability is available to serve.

Essential Agreements

- Advocating for and supporting the needs of students will remain our top priority.
- Agendas will be created, and meetings will be facilitated, by the Director of Student Support Services.
- We will keep the district's mission and vision at the forefront of the work.
- We will abide by the charter set forth in this document.

It is feasible that the specific focus and function of the advisory group may change based on the needs of the district which may result in updates on this document.