



Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary Charter School

2025 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report

May 15, 2025

Bethune SEAC's Purpose

Louisiana law requires that each school district and charter school establish and maintain a local Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The purpose of Bethune's SEAC is to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The SEAC is also intended to engage in outreach activities to increase the level of community knowledge, support, and collaboration regarding special education.

SEAC Members and Roles

1. Pamela Day (Parent)
2. Yovonne Williams (Parent)
3. Theresa Polar (Parent)
4. Sherice Watson (Bethune Staff)
5. Dr. Kemisha Ware SPED stakeholder (SPED Coordinator Warren Easton HS)
6. Dr. Joshua Washington SPED stakeholder (CEO New Harmony HS)
7. Annetter Hutton (chairperson)

Scheduled Meeting Dates

August 1, 2025

December 4, 2025

March 12, 2026

2025-26 SEAC Summary

Bethune's Special Education Advisory Council comes together to discuss highlights and needs within the special education community at Bethune. Through our work, we developed an outlook for the 2025-26 school year for families of students with IEPs. Our goal is to build trust and create a feedback chain that allows concerns and challenges to be shared more directly with the students' teachers

Strengths

The team generally feels a lot has gone extremely well relative to student holistic growth, clarity around the referral process being as streamlined as it's ever been, and related services being consistent. Some highlights include:

- Continued LEAP connect student success
- Continuum of services
- Student communication growth
- Sensory hallway development
- Improved inclusive practices
- LASARD support for specific teachers

Opportunities

The team needs to work towards maintaining participation from the first meeting to the last. As a result the team will complete the following for the 2025-26 school year.

- Prior to the 2025-26 school year the Administration will update the application to attract more SEAC members, extending the team to include a variety of student representation, including the gifted and talented population in addition to our existing disabilities population.
- Prior to and during the school year, the SEAC team will highlight and discuss where additional resources could be allocated.
 1. SEL training for select classroom centers around special populations
 2. Empathy training for the whole staff surrounding students with special needs
 3. Training for extended staff, like transportation personnel
 4. Education & Resources for parents/families with special circumstances

Aspirations

- Family resource center within the school
- More SPED/GEN Ed collaborative training
- Added adequately trained personnel
- Increased inclusivity

Results

- Increased family communication
- Increased celebration of SPED culture
- More positive feedback from parents & families

How can someone apply to become a SEAC member for the 2025-26 School Year? We continue to invite and welcome interested stakeholders to join Bethune's SEAC each school year. If anyone is interested in becoming a member of Bethune's SEAC, please contact the Special Education Coordinator, Mr. Channing Cornelius by Phone: (504) 359-9612 or by Email: ccornelius@bethunenola.org. Additionally, reminders and applications will be shared at the beginning of the 25-26 school year.