

ZACHARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report



5/12/2026

What is the purpose of ZCSD's 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.

Members and Roles Serving from 2024-2026

Member	Role
Dr. Shola Tijani	Parent
Martha Perry	Parent
Ariane Porter	Parent
Dr. Felicia Young	Parent
Tenisha Butler	Parent
Mary Beth Hodges	Parent and Para Educator
Angela Smith	Parent and Para Educator
Khelsea Reagan Barton	Para Educator
Melissa Blalock Price	Teacher
Michelle Lewis	Teacher/Parent
Wanda George	Community Stakeholder
Cynthia Chesterfield	Entity That Serves Students with Disabilities (Families Helping Families)
Charlotte Delatorre	SPED Instructional Support Specialist, Chair-2024
Aeneid H. Mason	Director of Special Education, Chair-2023

2025-2026 Meetings, Agendas, Minutes

Date/Time	Location	Agenda, Minutes
November 19, 2025 5:30 PM	ZCSD School Board Office	SEAC Agenda 11-19-25 SEAC Minutes 11-19-25
February 11, 2026 5:30 PM	ZCSD School Board Office	SEAC Agenda 2-11-26 SEAC Minutes 2-11-26
April 29, 2026 5:30 PM	ZCSD School Board Office	SEAC Agenda 4-29-26 SEAC Minutes 4-29-26

A quorum was met at each meeting. A Save the Dates flyer was emailed to members. Meeting notices were sent via email and posted at the school board with agendas. Meeting minutes and PowerPoint attachments were sent to members following each meeting. A reminder email was sent prior to the meetings. PowerPoints for each meeting may be linked on the ZCSD website. The opportunity for public comment was made available at each meeting with instructions and cards.

The SEAC would like to extend a special appreciation to Jessica Concienne for volunteering to take the meeting minutes at each meeting. The SEAC would like to acknowledge the following guest speakers who volunteered their time to present at the meetings: Courtney Altman with Growth Services, Jamie Byrd Mansur with Zachary High School and Tonja Early Granville, with ZEES (Zachary Exceptional Early Services).

Executive Summary

1. Overview of special education in Zachary Community School District. An overview of special education in Zachary Community School District was shared with the SEAC during meeting one and any changes or additions were addressed at each meeting.
 - a. An overview of students with disabilities' academic performance data and subgroup performance was shared with the SEAC during the first two meetings.
 - b. Our district is partnering with Rise Behavioral Services for teacher and student support K through 6th grade.
 - c. An overview of special education financial data as well as our current special education budget was presented to the SEAC followed by an opportunity for Q and A.

- d. A guest speaker presented for a few minutes at each meeting followed by an opportunity for Q and A.
- e. At the end of each meeting, we offer the opportunity for group discussion on Special Education Concerns from the Community. We encourage our members to talk to the community and bring any questions, concerns or comments to the meeting. Members are also encouraged to email any agenda items or questions they have prior to the meeting.

2. Compliance Violations.

During the 2025-2026 school year, Zachary Community School District was issued the following responses and/or required corrective actions in response to a parental complaint:

March 24, 2026:

The Department finds that the District did not violate the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Louisiana Children with Exceptionalities Act, or the Department's implementing regulations as set forth in the Louisiana Bulletin 1706 with respect to the allegations presented in this matter. Therefore, this investigation is hereby closed and no additional action is required.

May 15, 2026:

- *Within 90 calendar days of the date of this decision, the District shall convene an IEP Team meeting, with appropriate parental notice and opportunity to participate, to review the Student's special education services and determine the type, amount, and delivery of services based upon the Student's individualized educational needs. In conducting this review, the IEP Team shall consider the Student's strengths, parental concerns, current evaluation information, academic performance, and functional and developmental needs. The IEP Team's determination shall not be limited by the configuration or availability of any particular program. The District shall provide the Department with documentation of the IEP Team's determinations, including a copy of the resulting IEP, within five business days of the meeting.*
- *Within 90 calendar days of the date of this decision, the District shall provide training to all relevant district and school administrators, and all relevant staff special education personnel on the requirements of prior written notice under Bulletin 1706 §504, including the obligation to clearly identify proposed and refused actions and the reasons supporting those determinations.*

Documentation demonstrating completion shall be included in the District's compliance submission.

The District shall submit all documentation required by this corrective action within 120 calendar days of the date of decision.

All corrective action shall be completed as soon as possible, but in no case later than one year from the date of this decision.

3. Highlights and Accomplishments of the Council.

- a. Then the council met quorum, followed meeting agendas and had meaningful and respectful discussions to improve special education. 50% of the members attended the first meeting, 35% of the members attended the second meeting, and 50% of the members attended the third meeting. 21% of the members had perfect attendance for all three meetings. Two members did not attend any of the 3 meetings.
- b. The council was excited to develop a new meeting format that consisted of 1-2 guest presentations on various topics followed by an opportunity for Q and A. The first presentation was on ZCSD's partnership with Growth Services. The second presentation addressed our programs for significant disabilities at ZHS. The third meeting consisted of a presentation on how we provide services to our 3-year-old population. The SEAC members were engaged in discussions and expressed that they would like to continue the presentation format.

4. Areas of Improvement, Next Steps, and Timeline of Upcoming Activities. We adhered to our plan to spread out the SEAC meetings with one in the fall (November 2025), winter (February 2026) and spring (April 2026). We discussed the possibility of offering the meetings on a virtual platform to improve membership attendance.

- a. Explain how parent engagement is encouraged throughout the school system and what activities sought to promote parent engagement. We discussed opening our meetings with a virtual option and possibly changing the meeting time to noon to accommodate parents that could join during their lunch break. ZCSD is participating in the LDOE Parent Involvement Survey, and we are awaiting the results. Our SEAC would like us to have more parent information nights with agencies like Families Helping Families. We plan to offer up to two Parent Information Sessions on Trust Fund Training for the next school year.
- b. Our parental resource and website landing page is in development and will be launched soon.

- c. Our SEAC recommended advertising for the meetings on Facebook as well as the ZCSD website.
- d. At the end of each meeting, we offer the opportunity for group discussion on Special Education Concerns from the Community. We encourage our members to talk to the community and bring any questions, concerns or comments to the meeting. Members are also encouraged to email any agenda items or questions they have prior to the meeting.

How to Join

Zachary SEAC will be seeking new members for the 2026-2028 service term. For the 2026-2028 term, a survey will be sent in July 2026 regarding the application and selection process to all parents of students with disabilities and pertinent district and community stakeholders.

For more information, please visit: SEAC@zacharyschools.org