



Annual Report 2004-05
Special Education Advisory Panel

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

Elizabeth Edmands, Chair of Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
Kris Johnston, Chair of Education Committee

State of Alaska • Department of Health & Social Services • Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education
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Creating Change That Improves The Lives of People With Disabilities

Message from the Chairs

Summer 2005



Beth Edmands, Council Chair

The Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) was established to advise State agencies regarding the education of all eligible children with disabilities. The purpose, activities and recommendations of the SEAP for the 2004-05 academic year are included in this report from the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education (The Council), which is the SEAP.

The SEAP is composed of individuals who are knowledgeable about the services and supports available to children and families through Alaska's educational system. The students, parents and educators who serve on the SEAP bring their real life experiences to the table. Regular and special educators, district administrators, related service providers and others provide expertise on how systems work and how to accomplish the tasks of the SEAP. Working together as a team, the SEAP is an asset in the planning and implementation of a comprehensive system of services and supports.



Kris Johnston,
Education Committee Chair

As the SEAP and its Education Committee gather around the state both in rural and urban settings, we meet with students, families and educators to get a better understanding of strengths and issues in the provision of special education and related services. SEAP members are actively involved in the Department's improvement processes and initiatives. We look forward to continuing to work with the Special Education staff as the State develops early childhood outcomes and aligns policies, procedures and the Special Education Handbook to reflect the IDEA Improvement Act of 2004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Edmands".

Beth Edmands, Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Johnston".

Kris Johnston, Education Committee Chair

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Acronyms & Initials

Used in This Document

AKSPED	Alaska Special Education Electronic Discussion Group (Listserv sponsored by the Council)
APR	Annual Performance Report
ASSEC	Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference
ATOP	Alaska Transition Outcome Project
ATTI	Alaska Transition Training Initiative (transition from ILP to school)
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress
BMEEC	Bilingual Multi-cultural Equity in Education Conference
CIFMP	Continuous Improvement Focused Monitoring Process
DLC	Disability Law Center
DOC	Department of Corrections
DVR	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (of The Department of Labor)
EED	Department of Education and Early Development
EI/ILP	Early Intervention/Infant Learning Program
EIC	Early Intervention Committee
FAPE	Free Appropriate Public Education
FBA	Functional Behavioral Assessment
FETA	From Emotions to Advocacy
GCDSE	Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education
GSEG	General Supervision Enhancement Grant
HSGQE	High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (also called Exit Exam)
ICC	Interagency Coordinating Council for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities
IDEA	Individuals With Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Program
ILP	Infant Learning Program
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NCLB	No Child Left Behind
Noon v AK	Noon versus Alaska (Lawsuit)
OSEP	Office of Special Education Programs
PTI	Parent Training Information Center
SEA	State Education Agency (the Department of EED)
SEAP	Special Education Advisory Panel (known as State Advisory Panel in IDEA)
SESA	Special Education Service Agency
SIG	State Improvement Grant
WRRC	Western Regional Resource Center

Purpose of the SEAP

The Special Education Advisory Panel is established (IDEA Regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 300.652) in order to advise and assist the State with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities, including advising the State on the education of eligible youth with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Membership of the SEAP

The Council membership is composed of individuals representing Alaska's geographic and ethnic diversity. A majority of the members are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

SEAP MEMBERS	
<p>Art Arnold Representation: Department of Education and Early Development P.O. Box 20325 Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 465-2972 (w) art_arnold@eed.state.ak.us Term Ends: Assigned position</p>	<p>Marlene (Anna) Attla Representation: Self-Advocate 4151 E. 20th, Apt 22 Anchorage, Alaska 99508 (907) 339-9172 (h) (907) 272-8270 (w) marleneattla@hotmail.com Term Ends: 6/30/05</p>
<p>Linda Bark Representation: Special Education Teacher 210 East 7th Avenue #4 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3636 (907) 344-3119 (h) lannbark@yahoo.com Term Ends: 6/30/04</p>	<p>Teresa Bunsen Representation: University of Alaska Personnel Preparation 1830 E. Parks Highway PMB 337 Wasilla, Alaska 99711 (907) 786-4867 (w) tbunsen@uaaalaska.edu Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>
<p>Katie Campbell Representation: Division of Insurance P.O. Box 110805 Juneau, Alaska 99811 (907) 465-4607 (w) katie_campbell@dced.state.ak.us Term Ends: assigned position</p>	<p>Alan Cartwright Representation: The Arc of Anchorage 2211 ARCA Drive Anchorage, Alaska 99508 (907) 277-6677 (w) acartwright@arc-anchorage.org Term Ends: 6/30/05</p>

Membership of the SEAP Continued

SEAP MEMBERS	
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<p>Elizabeth Edmands Representation: Parent 3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 208 Anchorage, Alaska 99501 (907) 344-7222 (w) (907) 244-2485 (c) challenge.alaska@acsalaska.net Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>	<p>Kathy Fitzgerald Representation: University Center on Excellence in Disabilities, Parent 4521 Southpark Bluff Dr. Anchorage, Alaska 99516 (907) 264-6242 (w) (907) 345-3750 (h) kfitz@alaska.edu Term Ends: 6/30/05</p>
<p>Taylor Gregg Representation: Self-Advocate, High School Graduate 1225 South Point Higgins Road Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 (907) 247-8463 greggmary@yahoo.com Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>	<p>Helen (Betsy) Grunch Representation: Self-Advocate 9200 Independence Drive, Apt 101 Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (907) 336-6165 (h) bswax@hotmail.com Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>
<p>Kris Johnston Representation: Parent, Mental Health Provider P.O. Box 1729 Cordova, Alaska 99574 (907) 424-3145 (h) (907) 424-8268 (w) krisj@ctcak.net • kjohnston@cdvcmc.com Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>	<p>Bryan Knight Representation: Self-Advocate, High School Graduate 4271 Warwick Anchorage, Alaska 99507 (907) 563-4964 (h) (907) 522-9090 (w) (907) 350-2641 (c) Term Ends: 6/30/04</p>

Membership of the SEAP Continued

SEAP MEMBERS	
<p>Stacey Messerschmidt Representation: Parent P.O. Box 997 Tok, Alaska 99780 (907) 883-3944 (h) baron1@aptalaska.net Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>	<p>Irene M. Moreland Representation: Disability Law Center of Alaska 1700 E. Raven Drive Wasilla, Alaska 99654 (907) 357-3532 (h) irenemm@gci.com Term Ends: 6/30/04</p>
<p>Joe Pichler Representation: Self Advocate 3705 Williams St. #B Anchorage Alaska 99508 (907) 274-8108 (h) pichlerj@gci.net Term Ends: 6/30/05</p>	<p>Jodi K. Rumph 6310 Glacier Highway Juneau, Alaska 99801 (907) 586-4216 (h) jodikrump@netscape.net Term Ends: 6/30/04/</p>
<p>Darrell J. Sanborn, Superintendent Representation: Special Education Administrator P.O. Box 570 Unalaska, Alaska 99685 (907) 581-3151 (w) dsanborn@ucsd.net Term Ends: 6/30/04</p>	<p>Carla M. Shelton Representation: Parent 4171 East 20th Avenue, Unit 10 Anchorage, Alaska 99508-3504 (907) 243- 0883 (h) sheltoncm@gci.net Term Ends: 6/30/07</p>
<p>Sarah Souders Representation: Parent 301 Walker Lane Kenai, Alaska 99611-6812 (907) 335-569 Ossouders2002@yahoo.com Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>	<p>Donna Swihart Representation: Parent, LINKS/Mat-Su Resource Center, Mat-Su Valley SEAC HC05 Box 6894 Palmer, Alaska 99645 907-745-0228 dswihart@pobox.mtaonline.net Term Ends: 6/30/06</p>
<p>Arthur Walters Representation: Self-Advocate P.O. Box 276 Seward, Alaska 99664 (907) 224-5221(h) Alw36@ak.net Term Ends:</p>	

Membership of the Education Committee

Because the Council serves a variety of roles, the day to day functions of the Special Education Advisory Panel are delegated to the Education Committee. This standing committee drafts positions, public comment, priorities and activities for the full Council's approval. Agendas and minutes of monthly teleconferences are posted on the Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education web site <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/gcdse/>. These individuals contributed countless volunteer hours serving on the Education Committee in 2004-05:

Individuals with disabilities	Betsy Grunch
Liaison with District Advisory Council	* Lea Anne McWhorter
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	* David Kvasager
Liaison with State Board of EED	Dr. Shirley Holloway
Parents of children with disabilities	Kris Johnston, *Nikki Kinne, Irene Moreland
Protection and Advocacy	* Teresa Holt
Regular Education teacher	* Gayla Valle
Secondary Transition	Taylor Gregg, recent graduate, * Gail Greenhalgh, SERRC
Special Education Administrator	* Theo Lexmond, *Chris Robinson, Alan Cartwright
Special Education Teacher	Linda Bark, * Dean Konopasek
State Special Education Director	Art Arnold
Superintendent	Darrell Sanborn
University Personnel Preparation	Teresa Bunsen

**These participants served on the Education Committee although they are not appointed by the Governor.*

The Proposed Regulations Workgroup of the Education Committee consisted of several members as well as others including staff from the University Center on Excellence in Disabilities: Kathy Fitzgerald, Kelly Donnelly, Carl Evertsbusch, Matt Wappett and Suzanne Ishii-Regan, parent. Thank you to all, including volunteers.

Governor's Council - Staff Listing

Millie Ryan Executive Director Phone: (907) 269-8992 E-mail: millie_ryan@health.state.ak.us	Kathy Allely Planner III Phone: (907) 269-8991 E-mail: kathy_allely@health.state.ak.us
Judith Bendersky Project Coordinator Phone: (907) 269-8994 E-mail: judith_bendersky@health.state.ak.us	David Caldwell Visual Information Specialist Phone: (907) 269-3776 E-mail: david_caldwell@health.state.ak.us
Chris Hamilton Research Analyst III Phone: (907) 269-8554 E-mail: chris_hamilton@health.state.ak.us	Renee James Project Assistant Phone: (907) 269-8989 E-mail: renee_james@health.state.ak.us
Linda Koenig Administrative Clerk III Phone: (907) 269-8990 E-mail: linda_koenig@health.state.ak.us	Darcy Mollett Project Assistant Phone: (907) 269-8462 E-mail: darcy_mollett@health.state.ak.us
Carrie Predeger Planner I Phone: (907) 269-8926 E-mail: carrie_predeger@health.state.ak.us	Lee L. Walton Administrative Clerk III Phone: (907) 269-8990 E-mail: lee_walton@health.state.ak.us

Council Meetings

The Council held three face-to face meetings in the 2004-05 academic year.

- October 12-14, 2004 - Bethel
- January 19-21, 2005 - Juneau
- May 11-13, 2005 - Sitka

Reports from the Department of Education & Early Development (EED) to the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

The State Director of Special Education is appointed by the Governor to be on the SEAP and sits on the Education Committee. The following reports or discussions were provided:

- Annual Performance Report (APR) for the period of June 2003 to May 2004 submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education, March 2005
- Federal Special Education Application to OSEP
- Status of Monitoring Visits to Districts
- State Improvement Grant (SIG) updates
- Staffing Updates
- Priorities for Improvement: A handout provided in April 2004 to the Education Committee
- Presentation to the Council on IDEA reauthorization and the process for aligning state regulations and handbook to federal law and regulations.



Requests Made By The Department of Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

- Planning and participating in the Continuous Improvement Focused Monitoring Process
- Recruiting student participation in SEAP processes
- Assisting in Planning and Funding Annual Statewide Special Education Conference (ASSEC)
- Assisting in supporting grant applications
- Co-hosting Secondary Transition Summits and related collaborative planning meetings
- Providing feedback on Assessment and Accountability issues
- Providing feedback on High Qualified Status for special education teachers
- Collaborating on web site for Parent Information and Training
- Shaping SEAP activities and priorities around Department of EED priorities
- Planning and Implementation of the GSEG Grant to develop early childhood outcomes
- Collaborating in the process of aligning state regulations and handbook to IDEA 2004



Education Committee Activities

The Education Committee completed much of its work plan. The AKSPED list serve grew from 350 subscribers to more than 800 people across the state who signed up to get regular updates and share best practices about early intervention and special education. This electronic service regularly reminds people to review upcoming educational opportunities statewide and links them to a new web site called the “Alaska Family Directory.”

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997 was reauthorized in December 2004, and the committee stayed informed and involved in advocating for the bill to have the provisions that would best serve Alaska’s approximately 18,000 students receiving special education services.

Priority 1. CIMFP and Plan of Improvement

- Reviewed consolidated CIMFP/Improvement Plan with Annual Performance Report for FY03-04 and provided feedback on APR content
- Participated in summer CIMFP meetings addressing problematic areas in special education
- Participated at National Conference on Special Education & Early Intervention Accountability (New Orleans Oct 2--4)
- Involved with GSEG grant application with the Dept of EED and HSS for developing early childhood outcomes

Priority 2. Parent and Student Training – Empowerment and Support

- Presented at Annual Special Education Conference on resources for parents and found lack of educator and parent awareness of materials
- Received many requests for another Wrightslaw training or similar mini-training
- Increased AKSPED listserv activity and membership
- Participated in and followed activities of state PTI



Education Committee Activities Continued

Priority 3. Capacity Building /Training for School Staff

- Represented educator and parent interests on Alaska Statewide Special Education Committee (ASSEC Board) bringing forward needs of paraprofessionals
- Convened school-based Finance Officers and Special Ed Directors on status of Phase 1 of School-Based Medicaid
- Participated in Phase II of School Based Medicaid to enable reimbursement for specific behavioral health services provided to Medicaid eligible students on IEPs.

Priority 4. Secondary Transition

- Reviewed efforts of Alaska Transition Outcomes Project
- Brought people from DVR, ATOP and Alaska Works together through committee membership
- Promoted SET for LIFE toolkit at conferences

Priority 5. Special Education Students in Out of State Placements (Bring the Kids Home Initiative)

- Developed specific questions/concerns to the Mental Health Trust Authority workgroup on BTKH
- Investigated interstate compact regarding responsibilities of state to transition students back

Priority 6. Forward Recommendations to the SEAP

- Kicked off the year with a workshop on the roles and functions of the Special Education Advisory Panel.
- Attended State Board of EED meetings regularly to stay informed on policy discussions
- Reviewed update on resolution of Learning Disabilities lawsuit
- Submitted comment to the State Board of EED and the Department of HSS on 4 topics.

Priority 7. Tracking

- Remained informed and involved in the IDEA reauthorization process, advocating for what would best serve Alaskan students by speaking to congressional delegation in Washington DC
- Reviewed report on settlement agreement in Noon v. State
- Advocated for funding for Special Education Service Agency

Education Committee Priorities for 2005-06

1. General Supervision Enhancement Grant (GSEG) and Improvement /Performance Processes

- A. Assist in planning and participating in GSEG meetings to develop early childhood outcomes for children birth-8 yrs.
- B. Conduct IDEA Forum to provide comment to federal proposed regulations.
- C. Be proactive in IDEA-related proposed regulations by the State Board of EED.
- D. Be involved and review all Special Education handbook updates.
- E. Review and provide input on State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report.

2. Family Education and Staff Development

- A. Conduct regional IDEA training for parents and educators, providers (partnering with DLC of AK, CHD).
- B. Provide resources to districts on Special Education Advisory Panel (develop brochure/email) to districts.
- C. Present at ASSEC, BMEEC.
- D. Sit on ASSEC Advisory Board – Irene Moreland.

3. Capacity Building

- A. Advocate for comprehensive IEP training, collaboration for para and prof educators (Partner with University in providing appropriate educator IEP training).
- B. Conduct analysis and document need for funding at SESA, AARC and state foundation formula on special education including adequacy and design of funding.
- C. Advocate for additional autism services – collaborate across DD and other committees, agency strands, university, personnel prep in Autism.

4. Secondary Transition

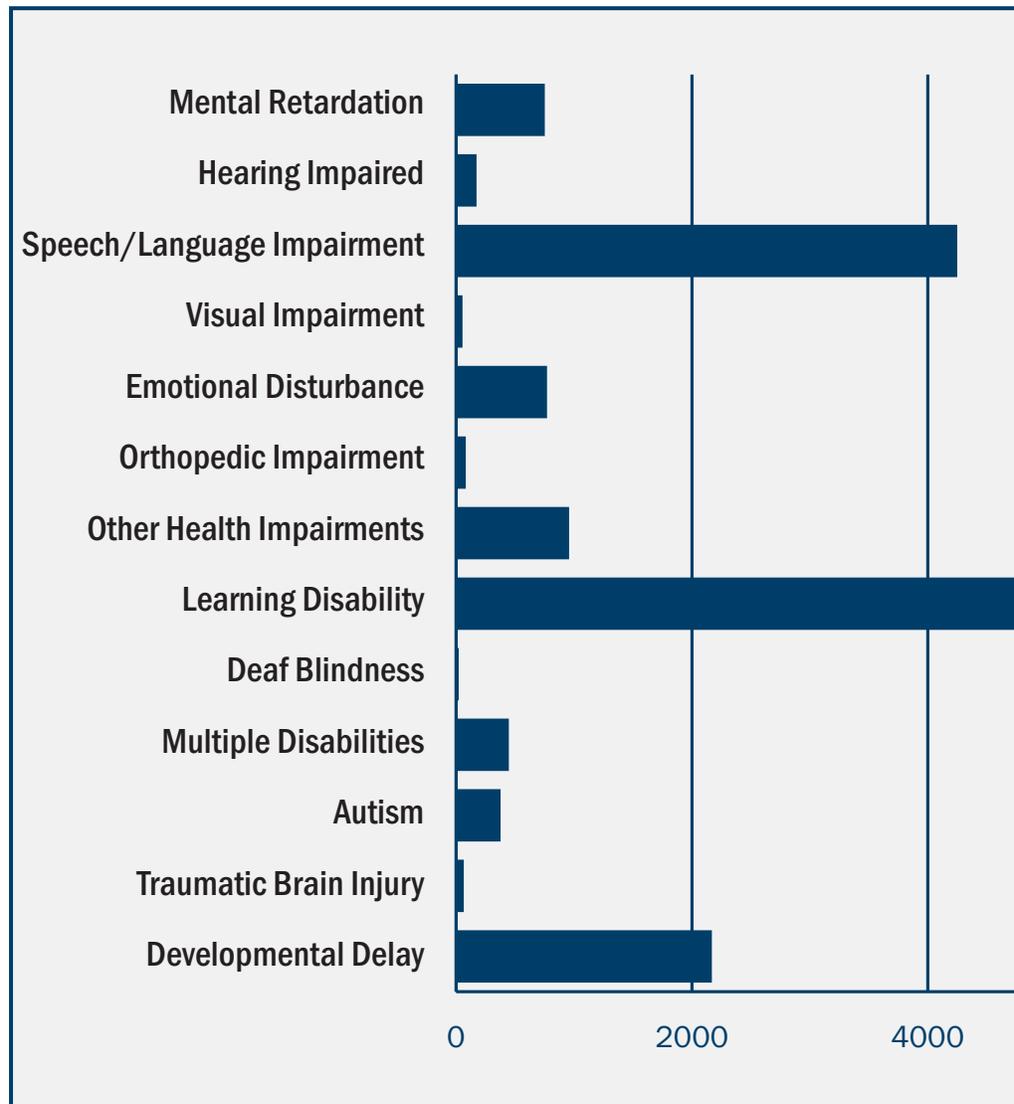
- A. Advocate for continued distribution and professional development and Training Of Trainers on SET for LIFE.
- B. Promote distribution and use of Self-Determination Toolkit.
- C. Support Youth in Transition grant.
- D. Research and review data on post-secondary outcomes.

5. Monitor Issues and Implementation

- A. Bring the Kids Home
- B. School based Medicaid
- C. Regulations on Assessment and NCLB
- D. New IDEA regulations
- E. Exit Exam Litigation

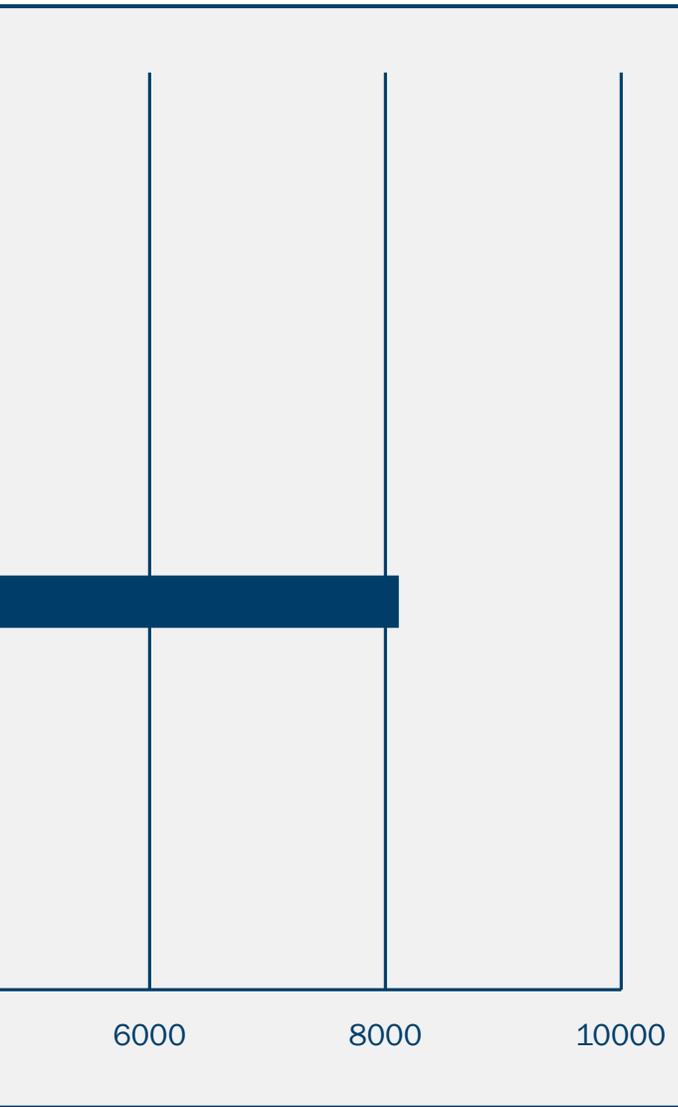
Child Count in Special Education

(as of 10/24/03) by Disability Category



Observations

- 23% of all students receiving special education services have a Speech/Language Impairment.
- 45% of students in special education have a Specific Learning Disability.
- The rise of autism is tenfold over the past ten years, and the category of Autism often does not include students who are on the high functioning end of the Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- The number of students who experience Emotional Disturbance does not include the hundreds of students who are residing outside of Alaska and receiving residential treatment.



Total number of students receiving special education = 18,140
 Total number of students = 132,970
 % of students receiving special education services = 13.6%

FY95 Title VI-B Child Count identifies 37 students with Autism
 FY05 VI-B Child Count identifies 370 students with Autism



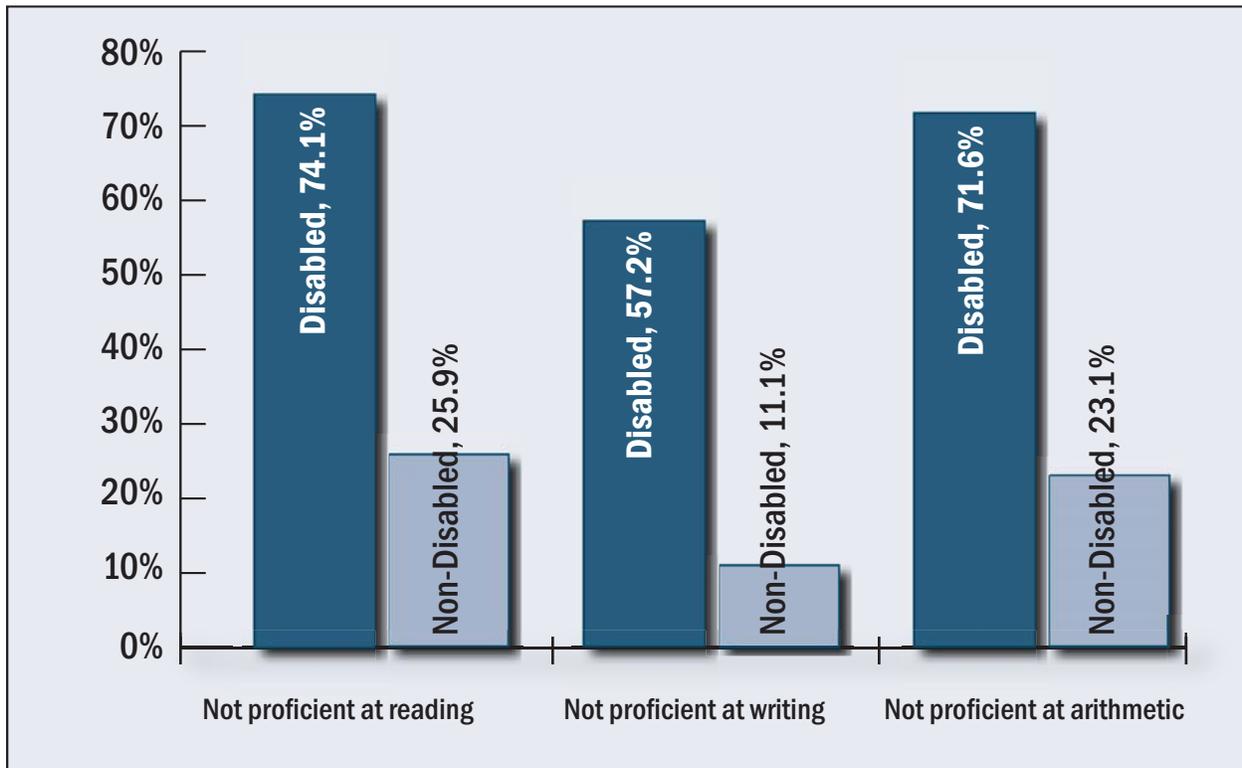
Disability Category (IDEA)	No. of Students
Mental Retardation	745
Hearing Impaired	166
Speech/Language Impairment	4,243
Visual Impairment	47
Emotional Disturbance	764
Orthopedic Impairment	951
Other Health Impairments	951
Learning Disability	8,104
Deaf Blindness	15
Multiple Disabilities	440
Autism	370
Traumatic Brain Injury	58
Developmentally Delayed	2,162

Data sources:

<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/stats/ChildCount/041022Childcount.pdf>

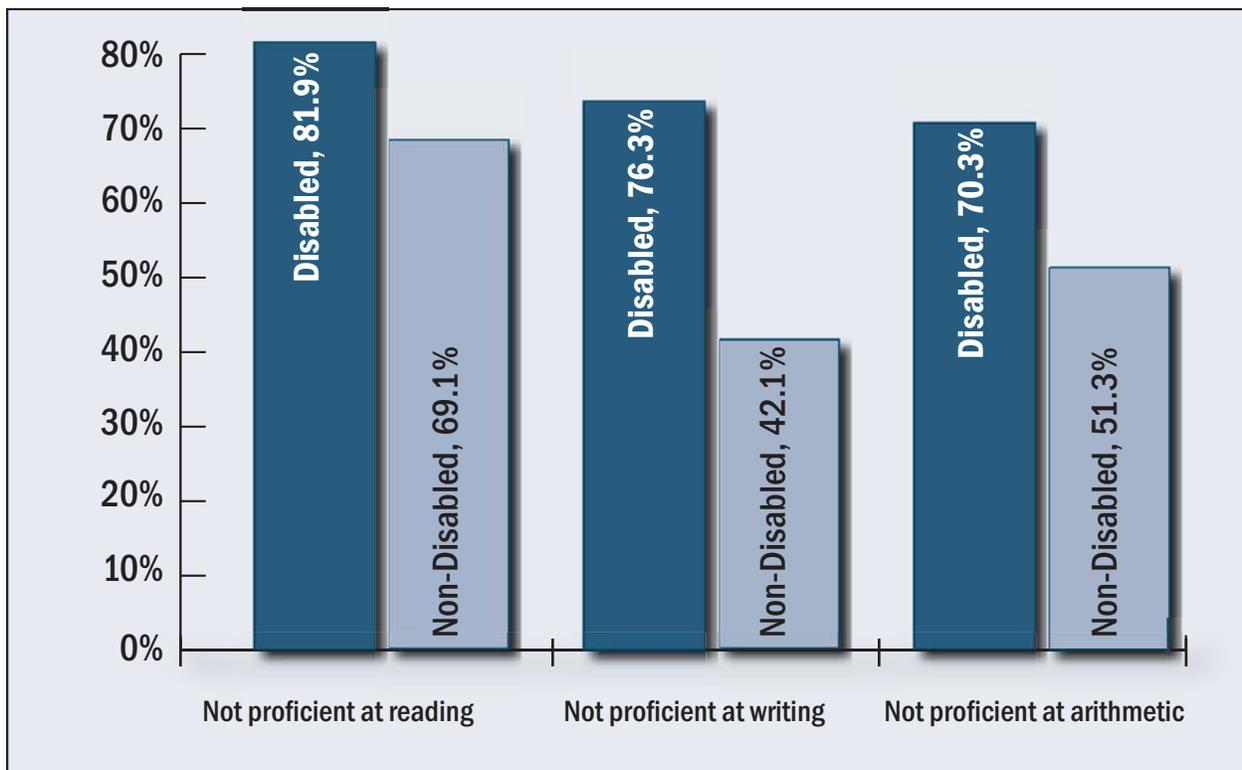
<http://www.eed.state.ak.us/stats/DistrictEnrollment/2005DistrictEnrollment.pdf>

Alaska 10th Grade Students High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE)Performance



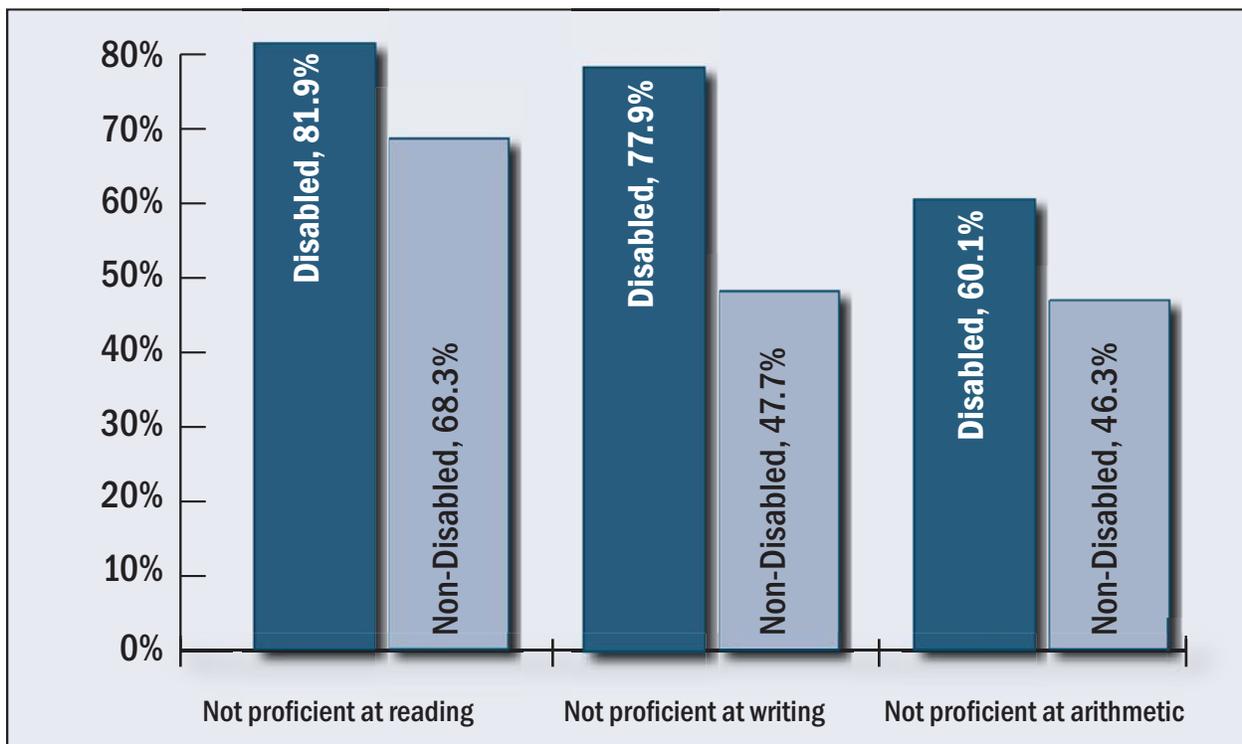
Grade 10	Reading		Writing		Arithmetic	
	Not proficient		Not proficient		Not proficient	
Disabled	708	74.1%	546	57.2%	688	71.6%
Non-Disabled	2173	25.9%	923	11.1%	1942	23.1%

Alaska 11th Grade Students High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE)Performance



Grade 11	Reading		Writing		Arithmetic	
	<i>Not proficient</i>		<i>Not proficient</i>		<i>Not proficient</i>	
Disabled	361	81.9%	242	76.3%	351	70.3%
Non-Disabled	764	69.1%	204	42.1%	831	51.3%

Alaska 12th Grade Students High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE)Performance



Grade 11	Reading		Writing		Arithmetic	
	Not proficient		Not proficient		Not proficient	
Disabled	203	81.9%	127	77.9%	167	60.1%
Non-Disabled	338	68.3%	103	47.7%	336	46.3%

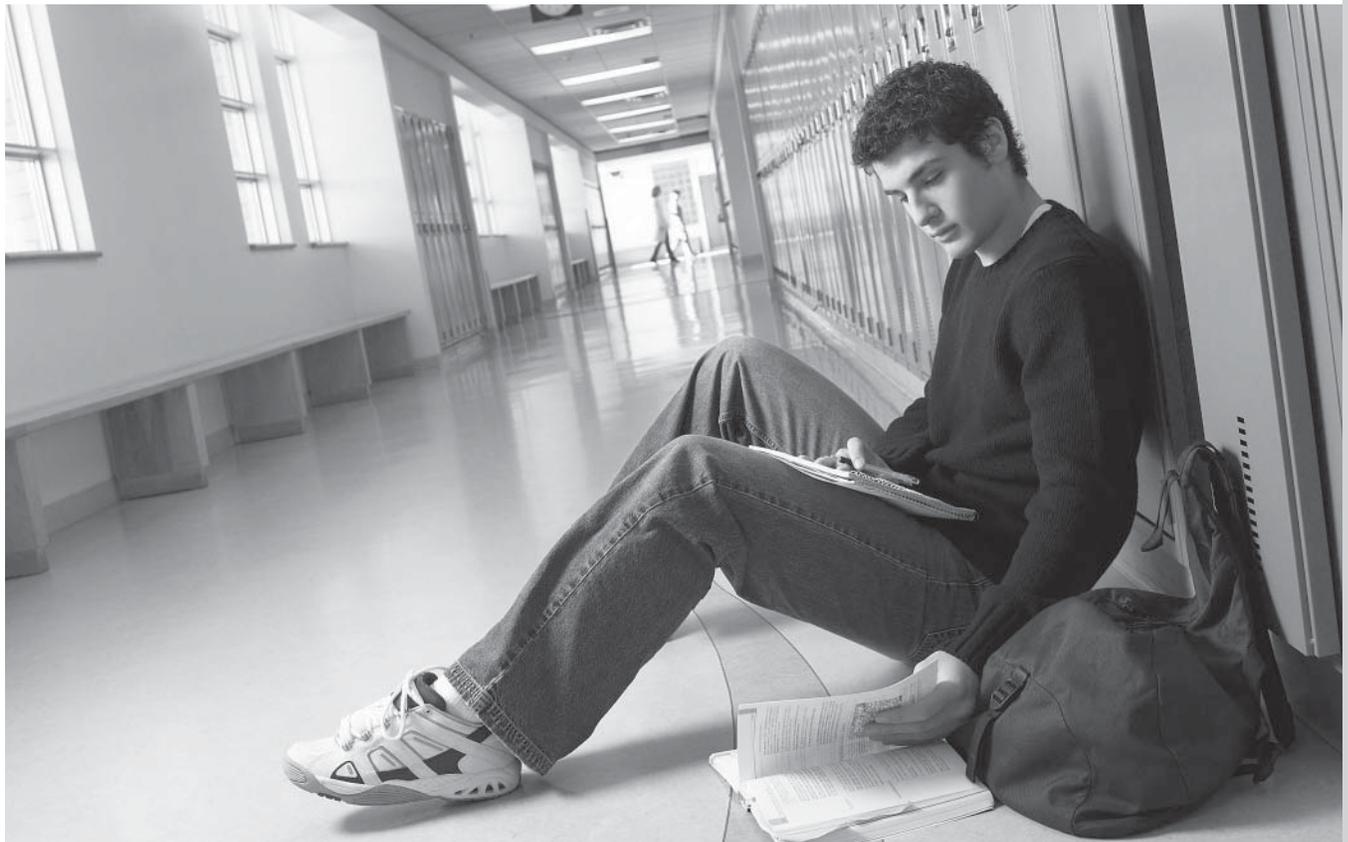
Student Performance High School Graduation Qualifying Examination (HSGQE)Performance

Observation on Preceding Data (see charts on pages 16-18): The Council is concerned about the disparity between proficiency rates of students with disabilities and students who do not experience disabilities.

Opportunities for Improvement

Baseline and trend data has been gathered and analyzed, and progress targets and time lines have been established. These are described in the Alaska Part B Annual Performance Report, July 2003 – July 2004. Areas of improvement include:

- Monitoring
- Early Childhood Transition
- Parent Involvement
- Free and Appropriate Public Education in the Least Restrictive Environment
- Secondary Transition

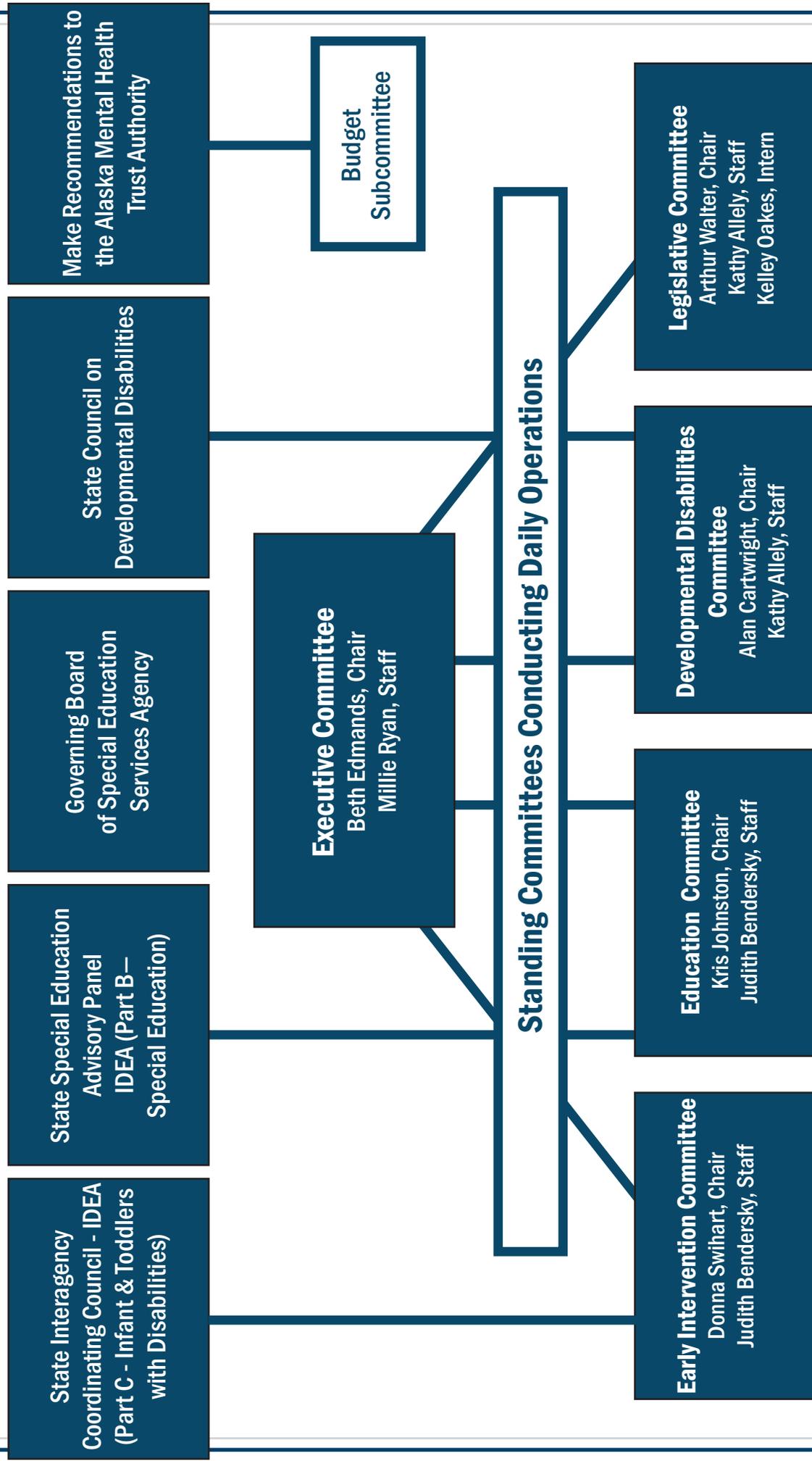


SEAP Recommendations to the Department of Education & Early Development

1. Continue to fund Secondary Transition project Alaska Transition Outcome Project (ATOP) and add a follow up study component.
2. Reprint SET for Life Binders for a new round of distribution to schools
3. Work with a stakeholder group of people from community-based and other state agencies on systemic issues that address Autism Spectrum Disorder in the state in order to enhance the delivery system in place and further the goals on the Alaska Autism Resource Center work plan.
4. Increase public access to due process hearing decisions by
 - a. E-mailing hearing decisions to the SEAP
 - b. Posting decisions on the EED web site
 - c. Adding a link to the full text of the hearing decisions
 - d. Preparing an analysis of complaint results with the most frequently identified issues for review by the SEAP



Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education



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Creating Change That Improves The Lives of People With Disabilities

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