

Getting Started on the EC

If you're interested in joining the EC we'll provide you with information that will get you started:

- Committee goals and priorities
- Committee workplan
- Recent reports
- Minutes from past meetings
- List of acronyms and initials used in early intervention
- Schedule of upcoming meetings
- Volunteer opportunities
- Contact information of other members
- Teleconference instructions
- Other things you may request

Why the Education Committee is important

What members say:

"The Education Committee is important in an advisory role for the Special Education division of the Department of Education, and as a way for parents to advocate for change and what their child needs in the educational system. The chance to advocate for my son and other children in Special Education has given me many chances to celebrate success."

Kris Johnston, Chair of EC and Advocate Cordova

"My involvement on the Council greatly affects my daughter's life and can change others' lives. That has a huge impact, especially when you think of all the years a special education student spends in school — as much as 16 years."

Beth Edmands, Parent Anchorage

"The Ed Committee is one of the best ways that parents can safely discuss the myriad of special education issues they confront on a daily basis."

Carl Evertsbusch

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Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

About Alaska's SEAP and the Education Committee

Creating Change That Improves the Lives of People With Disabilities

Tel: 1-888-269-8990



The Governor's Council on Disabilities & Special Education

The Council has assisted thousands of Alaskans to live, work, learn, recreate and worship in their own homes and communities. The Governor's Council fulfills a variety of roles.

Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)
We are advisory to the Early Intervention/ Infant Learning Program.

Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)
We provide advice and assistance to the Department of Education & Early Development as it relates to Special Education.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities
We are advisory to the Division of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities.

We make recommendations to the **Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority**

The Council is the governing Board of Alaska's **Special Education Service Agency**

The SEAP (Special Education Advisory Panel)

Every state has a group of parents, educators, students, agency leaders and others that make up the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) that is part of the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). **The Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education is Alaska's SEAP.**

This interagency group advises and assists the Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) by providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities.

What does the SEAP do?

The SEAP functions under IDEA include:

- Advise the DEED of unmet needs of children with disabilities in Alaska
- Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the State related to children with disabilities
- Advise the DEED in developing improvement plans to address findings identified in the monitoring process
- Advise the DEED in developing and implementing policies related to the coordination of services for children with disabilities
- Advise the State on the education of children who have been convicted as adults and are in adult prisons and who are eligible for special education services

The Education Committee (EC)

The Education Committee (EC) is a standing committee of the Governor's Council. The monthly meetings are conducted by teleconference, and many of the members are parents of school-age children with learning and/or developmental disabilities, educators, students and others who are involved in the systems impacting youth and families as they enter, participate in, and exit the educational system.

What does the EC do?

The committee works on priority issues and activities related to the operation of Alaska's statewide Special Education program. Committee members may be involved in workgroups that are conducting

- research
- planning
- monitoring
- contributing ideas on websites
- providing input on publications
- advocacy activities



Can you get involved?

Yes! Call us at 800-709-8990!