

Education Committee

David Kohler – Chair
Anthony Cravalho – Co-chair
Christie Reinhardt - Staff

"The State has established and maintains an **advisory panel** for the purpose of **providing policy guidance** with respect to **special education and related services** for **children with disabilities** in the State."

Sec. 612(a)(21)

- The Council is the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), and delegates the day to day business of the SEAP to the Education Committee.
- The members are educators, administrators and agency representatives involved in the special education system. The majority must be parents.
- The Council also governs the Special Education Service Agency (SESA)

Members

*Jill Burkert	Breanna Brian
*Anthony Carvalho	Sarah Emmal
*Sandra DeHart	Travis Erickson
*Don Enoch/Cassidy Jones	Jimael Johnson
*Angie Fraize	Jim Kreatschman
*Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus	Ernie Manzie
*Heidi Haas	Starr Marsett
*Mallory Hamilton	Amber Parker
Clayton Holland	Maria Pepperworth
Patrick Pillai	Adrainne Thomas
Amy Westfall/Mary Elam	Fred Villa
	Amy Westfall
*David Kohler - Chair	Blayne White/Adele Daniels
*Anthony Carvalho – Co-Chair	Kathleen Yarr
<i>*Council members</i>	

Accomplishments Since October

- **The OHI FASD Regulation Change...**
 - Went to October State Board of Ed meeting at Mt Edgecombe in Sitka. Organized testimony. The draft regulation did not meet all the needs of our families and professionals, especially Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANP).
 - Got input on changes to draft from ANP, Women's Children's and Family Health, FASD Ad Hoc and Alaska's Council of Administrators of Special Education. Drafted talking points.
 - Patrick Reinhart met with Dr Jay Butler, the Chief Medical Officer.

Accomplishments Since October

- **The OHI FASD Regulation Change**

- Organized written and oral testimony for the final regulation review and approval at the December State Board of Education Meeting held in Anchorage.
- In response to Dr Butler's endorsement and written testimony, the Department of Education made changes to the draft to fully include ANP as recognized diagnostician's for eligibility for "Other Health Impairment". Because it was just a language change, not a substantial policy change, the draft did not need to go out for additional comment.

The regulation change passed unanimously. Alaska is now the first state in the country to list Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in Special Education regulations.



More Things We've Done Since October

- Had a presentation on a report and recommendations on **Suspension and Expulsion** in the Anchorage School District from Starr Marsett of the Anchorage Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Participated in a face to face stakeholder meeting on the **State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP)**. The SSIP is an intense 5 year focus on narrowing the large graduation gap between students with disabilities and their peers.
- Accepting nominations for the **Inclusive Practice Award (IPA)** presented annually to an outstanding educator at an awards luncheon at the Alaska Special Education Conference (ASSEC) in February

Things We Are Working On

- Investigating the adoption of a **tiered diploma** system in Alaska so all students who meet attendance and coursework requirements receive diplomas, potentially including students taking alternate assessments
- We have new representation from the Alaska Dyslexia Association and will be looking at adding "**dyslexia**" to the conditions listed under "Specific Learning Disability" Special Education eligibility
- Investigating inequalities and barriers to students with disabilities and rural students, by cut scores on college and career ready assessments on the **Alaska Performance Scholarship**
- Facilitate **training for principals** on discipline, IDEA and behavior