



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
State Advisory Panel for Exceptional Children (SAPEC)  
SUMMARY**

**NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Alexandria Wright, Allison Amshoff, Amber Hamm, Cora McKnabb, Eileen Hoover, Emily Fox, Jackie Hawley, Jeni Ward, Jessica Moore, LaCheena Carothers, Laura Tipton, Tiffanie Clark, Gretta Hilton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Amy Smith, Ashley Barlow, Heather McConnell, Jeffery Coles, Tal Curry, Layla Frasier, Zach Stumbo

**SUMMARY:**

**Agenda Item:** Review Meeting Purpose, Duties and Norms

**Presenter:** Jarrod S. Slone, IDEA Program and Fiscal Compliance Specialist, Office of Special Education and Early Learning  
**Summary of Discussion:**

Slone reviewed the SAPEC role, purpose and duties. This includes advising KDE on unmet needs; commenting and announcing publicly on rules and regulations; and advising in developing and implementing plans, policies, evaluations and reporting.

**Feedback:**

None

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** Membership Update

**Presenter:** Jarrod S. Slone, IDEA Program and Fiscal Compliance Specialist, Office of Special Education and Early Learning  
**Summary of Discussion:**

Many new SAPEC members attended; only five returning members for SAPEC. Members were asked to introduce themselves in alphabetical order.

**Feedback:**

None

KDE:OSEEL: JS

11/13/25

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Presenter:** Jarrod S. Slone, IDEA Program and Fiscal Compliance Specialist, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:**

Minutes from April 2024 (last official quorum) were reviewed. No changes requested. Motion by Tiffanie Clark; second by LaCheena Carothers. Roll-call vote conducted; minutes approved unanimously.

**Feedback:**

None

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** Public Comment

**Presenter:** Jarrod S. Slone, IDEA Program and Fiscal Compliance Specialist, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:**

Chair opened floor for public comment. No public comments were made. Motion to close public comment: Motion by Tipton, second by Clark.

**Feedback:**

None

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** Election of Officers

**Presenter:** Jarrod S. Slone, IDEA Program and Fiscal Compliance Specialist, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:**

Chair Election: Tiffanie Clark, nominated by Cora McNabb, seconded by Jackie Hawley. Clark accepted the nomination. Roll call vote: approved unanimously. Clark elected the new SAPEC chair. Vice Chair Election: Laura Tipton, nominated by Emily Fox; seconded by Cora McNabb. Roll-call vote: Approved unanimously. Tipton was elected vice chair.

Secretary Election: Emily Fox, nominated by Lacheena Carruthers, seconded by Hamm. Roll call vote approved. Fox was elected secretary.

**Feedback:**

None

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** OSEEL Updates

**Presenter:** Gretta Hylton, Ed. D., Associate Commissioner, Office of Special Education and Early Learning

**Summary of Discussion:**

Mission: Improving outcomes for diverse learners through support, TA and guidance. Eight “North Star” Priorities: Stakeholder engagement, preschool-to-kindergarten transition, effective instruction, effective discipline, access, parent/family engagement, recruitment and retention, improved outcomes.

## Organizational Structure:

Five divisions: IDEA Implementation and Preschool (DIIP), IDEA Monitoring and Results (DIMR), State Schools (KSB and KSD), Early Learning Unit, Transition Education Unit (TEU). Hylton celebrated Kentucky earning “Meets Requirements” (highest rating) from USDOE for the 16th consecutive year.

*State Performance Plan / Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Update:*

*Lauren Thieneman, OSEEL SPP/APR Coordinator:*

SPP: Long-term goals across 18 IDEA indicators. Indicators split into compliance (0% or 100% targets) and results (stakeholder-set targets). Data uses: Compliance monitoring, Risk assessment, Stakeholder feedback. The state’s current strengths: High graduation (Indicator 1), Low dropout (Indicator 2), High levels of inclusion (Indicator 5), Post-school success (Indicator 14).

*State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP / Indicator 17) – Proposed Changes:*

*Veronica Sullivan, Director-Division of IDEA Implementation and Preschool (DIIP):*

The state’s current goal is a focus on mathematics improvement, grade 8 target. Includes PD, coaching, TA at elementary + middle levels. PBIS added later due to behavioral needs.

Proposed Change: Add Reading as an official focus area, stakeholder feedback supports expansion. Must be approved by OSEP. Members asked why reading was not originally included. Sullivan explained the initial focus on math was due to a need for narrow scope.

*State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) / KY Transition 360:*

*Allison Johnson, Assistant Program Administrator:*

A five-year grant focused on transition programming for students with disabilities aligns with United We Learn. The goal is to improve educator capacity across five priority

areas: Policy, Collaborative systems, Transition planning, Career development, Student skills (“adulting” skills). The program incorporates 424 participants, 74 districts/ATCs, representing 10+ job roles; only one-third are special educators.

The plan follows a three-tier model: Tier 1: Asynchronous learning (foundational knowledge), Tier 2: Supported implementation and coaching, Tier 3: Communities of practice (rolling out next summer).

**Feedback:**

None

**Follow-up Required:**

None

**Agenda Item:** 2025-2026 Meeting Schedule

**Presenter:** Tiffanie Clark, SAPEC President

**Summary of Discussion:**

We must meet at least four times per year. The panel discussed two upcoming meeting dates.

- March 11 - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- June 10 - 9 a.m. - noon

Jackie Hawley made the motion to allow for hybrid meetings for both March 11 and June 10 and Alex Wright seconded. Next meeting March 11 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each panel member is asked to complete the exit survey for today. Hamm made a motion to adjourn, Wright, seconded.

Adjourned: 11:36 a.m.