Council On Educational Services
For Exceptional Children

NC State Advisory Panel

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Nicole Jimerson, Chairperson (through June 2016)
Leanna George, Chairperson (June 2016 to current)

Staff support provided by the
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
Exceptional Children Division

William J. Hussey, Director
The Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (CESEC) is established in accordance with Section 300.167-300.169 of the federal regulations, Section 1412(a)(21) of the Individuals with Disabilities Educational Act (IDEA 2004) and Section 115C-121.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes as the State Advisory Panel to the State Board of Education. The purpose of the Council is to:

- Advise the Board of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- Comment publicly on rules and regulations proposed by the Board regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the Board in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the United States Secretary of Education as required by IDEA;
- Advise the Board in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports required by IDEA;
- Assist the Board in developing and implementing policies related to the coordination of services for students with disabilities; and
- Carry out any other responsibilities as designated by federal law or the State Board of Education.
Membership

The Council shall consist of a minimum of 24 members. Currently, the Council consists of 25 members - 20 appointees and 5 ex-officio. Members are appointed by the Governor, President Pro Tem of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the State Board of Education. Appointees represent individuals with disabilities from the ranks of parents, teachers, higher education, public and private schools, business/vocational community, and charter schools. A majority of representatives shall be persons with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities.

The term of appointment for members appointed by the State Board of Education is four years. All other terms are two years. The current membership of the Council include the following people.

Leanna George  Jennifer Grady
Cynthia Daniels-Hall  Heather A. Grant
Katie Holler  Tim Montgomery
Elena Roberts  Senator Chad Barefoot
Jennine Vlasaty  Teresa Mebane
Vicki Simmons  Representative Dennis Riddell
Jennifer DeGen  Laura Hall
Gina Smith  *William J Hussey
Greg Singleton  *Carla McNeil
Dr. Dale Carpenter  *Jason Vogler
Susan Humbert  *Rickey Smith
Mary LaCorte  *O. Martin Pharr
Lisa Phillips

(*) denotes Ex Officio Member
Meetings

The Council meets four times a year. During the 2015-2016 year, meetings were held on September 16, 2015; December 9, 2015; March 16, 2016; and June 8, 2016. A conference call was held on January 13, 2016.

For the 2015-2016 School Year, presentations were made by DPI staff, as well as other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

Topics Include:
• Charter Schools
• Policy Changes
• Annual Performance Report
• Revision of Handbook on Parents’ Rights
• Specific Learning Disability and Multi Tiered Systems of Support

Council Actions:
• Developed a Vision Statement
• Commented on Proposed Policy Changes Related to the Definition, Evaluation and Identification of Students with SLD
• Council was represented in several stakeholder groups including School Based Mental Health Initiative
• Drafted Public Comment procedure for CESEC - passed at Sept 2016 meeting
• Worked towards a revision of the Council’s Bylaws - this should be completed during the 2016-17 year

Unique Opportunities:
• The Council was given a tour of the Haynes-Inman Educationals Center in Jamestown, NC. This is a Public Seperate School for students with complex medical and educational needs.
• The Council was given the opportunity to attend the 65th Conference on Exceptional Children, held in Greensboro, NC.

Plans for the future:
• Public Comment opportunities
• Increase interaction with students, teachers, and parents throughout the state
Committees


Executive Committee - Leanna George, chair
• Sets meeting agendas
• Organizes orientation for new members
• Clarified voting concerns
• Drafted the Annual Report

Unmet Needs - Laura Hall, chair
• Determine topics for Council action relative to unmet needs of students
• Established priorities for the committee
• Initiated efforts to increase opportunities for public input to the council
• Drafted council policy for public comment
• Working towards development of council email and a data tool for categorization of public comments

Reports & Data - Cynthia Daniels-Hall, chair
• Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
• The State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report met requirements and so a corrective action plan was not needed or advised on this year.
• Review data and advise on annual reports as needed.
• Created a template for committee work

Policies & Procedures - Susan Humbert, chair
• Comment publicly on rules or regulations proposed by the SEA regarding the education of students with disabilities
• Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for students with disabilities
• Revised the council’s by-laws