

DRAFT PENDING COUNCIL APPROVAL

SUMMARY

Dec 19, 2025

Indiana State Advisory Council (SAC) on the Education of Children with Disabilities [Online Virtual Meeting](#)

Call to Order

State Advisory Council Chair Kim Dodson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. A quorum (eleven of twenty members) **was not** in attendance.

PV	Dr. Dawn McGrath <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent, INSOURCE Representative	PV	Bethany Goetz <ul style="list-style-type: none">Division of Mental Health and Addiction Representative
A	Paloma Garza <ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent	A	David Reed/ Alicia Cooper <ul style="list-style-type: none">DCS Representative
PV	Donald Koors <ul style="list-style-type: none">Individual with disabilities, ISBVI Representative	A	Sarah Watson <ul style="list-style-type: none">Non-Public Representative
PV	Michelle Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none">Local Education Official	PV	Katie Bustamante <ul style="list-style-type: none">Representative of vocational, community, or business organizations concerned with the provision of transitional services
PIP	Dr. Nancy Holsapple <ul style="list-style-type: none">Secretary	PV	Kim Dodson <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair, Arc Representative
A	Patricia Hartman <ul style="list-style-type: none">Administrator of program for children with disabilities	A	Christopher Stilwell <ul style="list-style-type: none">DOC Representative
PV	Kristi Linson <ul style="list-style-type: none">IDOH designee	A	Lucy Witte <ul style="list-style-type: none">ISD Representative
PV	Jonathan Kraeszig <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disability and Rehabilitative Services designee		

PIP- Present, in-person

PV- Present, virtual

A-Absent

Invited Guests:

- In-Person:
 - Melissa Cavaletto, IDOE Technical Assistance Specialist
 - Maggie Hampton, IDOE Technical Assistance Specialist
- Virtual
 - Dr. Pennie Gregory, Executive Director, CELL

Action Items

- There was no quorum at this meeting. No action items were reviewed during this meeting.

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Information Items

- **SAC Meetings:** Per statute, the SAC must meet 4 times a year.
- **Welcome to Katie Bustamante,** VP of Education, Goodwill Central and Southern IN. Katie oversees high schools and the Indy Met program. Focus is on workforce development and supporting students with disabilities as they prepare to enter the workforce.
- **Public meetings:** We need to make sure SAC meetings are publicly streamed. Meeting links will be posted to YouTube. Moving forward, meetings will be offered in person. Virtual attendance will still be an option. Reimbursement is available for mileage traveled to attend meetings. Hotels are also reimbursable for those traveling over 50 miles. Forms will be sent out after this meeting, and paper forms will be available at the March meeting.
- **Guest: Dr. Pennie Gregory:** Applied for State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and was granted. The project implemented through the grant is called the Cell School Leadership Initiative (CSLI). CELL is part of IIDC at IU Bloomington. IIDC is committed to schools and school partners with 6 research scientists on staff. The focus of this SPDG is on building leadership capacity over 5 years to strengthen and invest in school leadership. This initiative is designed to be a cohort of principals who learn over the course of a year, then develop and implement a key school improvement project. This will build participant capacity to lead special education work in their buildings. This initiative is intended to lower silos and give leaders the resources they need. Another goal is to support teacher leaders and allow them to work alongside other teacher leaders. Family partnerships are also a focus of the SPDG, making sure there is a cohesive structure of support. CELL will be working with INSOURCE in this area. CELL hopes the research will encourage a more proactive and supportive system for students with disabilities. This SPDG will be focusing on school communities that have been struggling throughout the state to bring this learning to them, being intentional about recruitment, starting in Feb and March. Unique to CELL, there are several years of experience with the SPDG grant.
 - Questions/ Discussion:
 - Dr. Holsapple: DOE is excited about this grant. The last 2 SPDGs focused on rural schools and districts with more than 10,000 students, focusing on teacher retention and strengthening support in those districts. This opportunity is building the relationship between building principals and school special education leadership to find better outcomes. By having other agencies involved (there are PTI, principals, superintendents) to bring a broader approach, hopefully, we will see better outcomes. Dr. Holsapple had a meeting this week with a federal contact. When this SPDG grant was scored, there were many positive asterisks because of the creative process and how we are encompassing many agencies in this grant.

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- Dr. Gregory: CELL thought about what is already in place so they can come alongside and support the trusted partners and initiatives who are already doing this work.
- Slides will be shared after the meeting. SAC will have Dr. Gregory back for an update on the status of the grant.
- **Guest, Melissa Cavaletto:** The waiver extension request to the federal 1% cap on alternate assessments is articulated and posted on the Office of Special Education webpage for public comment. Public notice is open until midnight on December 26. Afterwards, all public comments will be transferred to the document and submitted by Dec 29 before the deadline. Please go to the Jotform to provide feedback.
 - Last year, Indiana was denied the waiver because it exceeded the 1% cap of students participating in the alternate assessment. If you have thoughts, go to the Jotform and provide those. We will continue to provide the committee with updates once the waiver is submitted and a response is received from the federal government. If we need to participate in an appeal process, we will provide updates on that also.
- **Director Outreach Opportunities:** This year, the Office of Special Education started something different to get as much information to the field as possible. Directors Symposiums are hosted once a month to share updates and information with special education administrators. New Directors Community Chats are available for new directors, within the first 3 years of their position, to ask questions regarding updates or other concerns they may have as new directors. Listen and Lead sessions give the field a platform to communicate with each other and also ask questions regarding updates or other concerns they have in their school communities. Special Education specialists and other DOE partners provide updates at these sessions. There are good questions from new directors at the new director community chats. There are many data reporting, federal, and state requirements for new directors to learn, so this is a support for them. If new directors are not well-versed in requirements, there is a lot of turnover. This hopes to help with consistency and will continue in 2026. Monthly office hours are also hosted with INSOURCE. These topics are based on the calendar.

Discussion Items

- Those of us who serve should participate in ethics training. How do members participate in that?
 - Dr. Holsapple will follow up and send information to the committee.

Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

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Next SAC Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20 at 9:30 am ET. Materials will be emailed to council members prior to the meeting. Future meetings will be held in person at:

CIESC Horizon Room

3500 Depaw Blvd, Pyramid Two, Floor Two
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Adjournment

Kim Dodson adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am.