

PASE Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2021

Virtual via Zoom

Members Present: Jodi Bajko, Sandy Doornbos, Romulo Garcia, Jennifer Gard, Ronda Kaechele, Heather Kalafut, Lindsey Kloeckner, Sarah Kugler, Cindy Metoxen, Maria Mora-Bowen, Karen Schwedler, Nate Steinberg, Sarah Szuminski, Megan Wacker, Sarah Whitaker

Guests: Chip Jenkins, Chelsea Kittridge-Farrell, Jennifer Leon Zayas, Lori Matthews, Tina Mortensen, Kirsten Myers, Joanne Platt, Karen Schwedler, Angie Thornburgh, Jann VanAirsdale, Pamela VanOcker, Deb Whitford

Excused: Heather Brand, Heather Bright

I. Welcome and Announcements

Kirsten Myers welcomed everyone and thanked them for adjusting the schedule change for tonight's meeting. Nate Steinberg, our PASE Chair, asked for introductions of new attendees and district directors.

II. Approve Minutes of October 4, 2021

A motion was made by Sarah Kugler to approve the minutes of March 1, 2021. Motion was seconded by Heather Kalafut and approved with no opposition.

III. Superintendents' Advisory Committee Update

Jennifer Gard provided an update from the Superintendent Advisory Meeting on November 12th.

IV. Review of PASE Wish List from Last Meeting

- * Least Restrictive Environment & Inclusion
- * IEP Education for parents
- * Course of Study
- * Parent Resources
- * Assistive Technology
- * Understanding Eligibility / Disabilities
- * Critical shortages in Special Education

V. FAPE in the LRE Presentation

- History in Special Education

- * Started with Brown vs. Board of Education verdict
- * 1965 Elementary vs. Secondary Education Act
- * 1973 Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act
- * 1975 Education for All Handicapped Children Act from 1975 to 1990

- * 1990 IDEA & reauthorization in 2004
- * 2004 IDEA
 - Meet developmental goals and challenging students
 - Lead productive & independent adult lives
 - Increased responsibility of parents
 - Whole school approach, including early intervention and tiered system

IDEA: 6 Critical Components

1. IEP (Individualized Education Plan)
2. FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education)
3. LRE & Inclusion (Least Restrictive Environment)
4. Appropriate Evaluation
5. Parent / Teacher Participation
6. Procedural Safeguards

Parent Role in IEP Process

- * Parents required participation
- * Collaboration is important

IEP Team

- * General Education Teacher
- * Special Education Teacher
- * School Psychologist
- * Related Service Provider
- * Administrator or representative
- * Student present when necessary or appropriate
- * GOAL: Create meaningful and individualized plan for students at present level of academic achievement

IEP Components

- * PLAAFP (Present Level of Academic Achievement & Functional Performance)
- * Transition Plan (Typically 16+ years)
- * Rewritten every 12 months
- * Can be amended/revised if/and or as needed
- * Try to answer / what one skill would change this student's life / trajectory?
- * **Goals & Objectives:**
 - Can reasonably accomplish goals in 12 months
- * **Supplementary Aids & Services:**
 - Accommodations, Modifications and/or Adaptations
 - Needs only
 - Assistive Technology & Communication Must Be Considered for All Students
- * **Programs & Services:**
 - Determined at time of meeting

Broke out into small groups to discuss the following questions:

1. What has worked well for you in being part of the IEP process?
2. What is the most challenging part of the IEP process?
3. What additional info are you looking for?

FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education)

- * Ensures access to general curriculum to meet
- * FAPE = Specially designed instruction through special education programs & related programs
- * Rigorous & High Expectations

LRE (Least Restrictive Environment)

- * Guiding Principle / Students w/ disabilities receive their education alongside their peers without disabilities to the max extent appropriate

Defined inclusion through the definition of:

- * Exclusion
- * Segregation
- * Integration
- * Inclusion

Least Restrictive (the student is placed with mostly general education students)

Most Restrictive (the student is placed with mostly other special education students)

Appropriate Evaluation

Procedural Safeguards

VI. Michigan Alliance for Families

Deb Whitford from Michigan Alliance for Families highlighted her website with lots of resources and courses available for families.

VII. Public Comment and Closing

Our next meeting is February 7, 2022 @ 6:30 pm.

Minutes recorded by PASE Secretary, Lindsey Kloeckner.