| **Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item** | **Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia** |
| --- | --- |

# Agenda Item: K

## Date: September 17, 2020

### Title: Annual Report from the State Special Education Advisory Committee

#### Presenter: Dr. Samantha Hollins, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education and Student Services (SESS), Christine Germeyer (SSEAC Chair), and Jill Sowers (SSEAC Vice Chair)

#### Email: [Samantha.Hollins@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Samantha.Hollins@doe.virginia.gov) Phone: 804-225-2924

## Purpose of Presentation:

Action required by state or federal law or regulation.

Executive Summary:   
The State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) provided opportunities for publiccomment at each of its meetings, for each SSEAC member to report on his/herconstituency group, and invited special guests to present on initiatives and programs pertaining to students with disabilities. The subcommittees addressed student achievement and student outcomes, policy and regulations, and family engagement and community outreach initiatives. Based on the work of these subcommittees, constituency reports, presentations,and public comments, the SSEAC report (Attachment A) includes recommendations that support the Virginia Board of Education’s priority to provide high-quality, effective learning environments for all students; specifically targeted to studentswith disabilities. The report recommends that the Board of Education continue its efforts to address the teacher, staff, and other professional support staff shortages and to ensure adequate training for school division personnel and families, on the content, once the *Regulations Governing the Use of Seclusion and Restraint in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Virginia* are implemented. The SSEAC approved its annual report at its July 2020, meeting for submission, and presentation to the Board.

**Action Requested:**

Final review: Action requested at this meeting.

## Superintendent’s Recommendation:

## The Superintendent recommends that the Board receive the SSEAC report and its recommendations as it moves forward to create sound policies for student success, specifically as they relate to students with disabilities.

## Rationale for Action:

## The *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia* require that “. . . the state special education advisory committee shall submit an annual report of committee activities and suggestions to the Virginia Board of Education in Virginia.” See [8VAC20-81-20.15.c(2)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter81/section20/).

## Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

## **Background Information and Statutory Authority:** In accordance with the requirements of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act*, effective December 3, 2004, (IDEA 2004), its implementing federal regulations, effective October 13, 2006, at 34 C.F.R. 300.167 through 34 C.F.R. 300.169, and the *Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia*, at [8VAC20-81-20.15.c(2)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter81/section20/), the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC) assists the Board of Education by providing advice on policies and practices that help increase accountability for academic success for students with disabilities. The SSEAC is mandated by federal and state regulations and represents a number of constituency groups that advocate for children and youth with disabilities.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:  
No additional action is required. Following the Board of Education’s review, the Virginia Department of Education will continue working with the SSEAC and assist the committee as it takes action on any recommendations from the Board of Education.

## Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

The impact on human resources is reliant on any action taken with respect to the recommendations presented in the SSEAC annual report.

The operating expenses and other costs associated with the meetings and functions of the Board of Education’s advisory committees are provided through the Department of Education’s operating funds.

Where applicable, federal funds are provided to support the expenses and the work of the advisory committee.