

Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

2001-2002

The Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee (CSEAC) is comprised of 31 members, representing the seven congressional districts of our state. Membership consists, according to Federal regulation, of 51% adults with disabilities and/or parents of students with disabilities. During the 2001-2002 year the CSEAC held four general meetings and a two-day work session for all members. Goals for the 2001-2002 year were set at the July 2001 session using a strategic planning process in which all committee members participated. Telephone conferences were facilitated for the purpose of carrying out sub-committee work between regular CSEAC meetings as well as for periodic Executive Committee meetings. Executive Committee membership includes current and incoming co-chairpersons and the chairpersons of standing subcommittees. CSEAC oversees the implementation of the Colorado State Improvement Plan for Special Education and its work supports the goals of that plan. This report provides a summary of CSEAC's 2001-2002 goals, activities and progress.

The 2001-2002 CSEAC Co-Chairpersons were:

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|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Laney Heath, Co-Chair | Grand Junction |
| Brett Prilik, Co-Chair | Denver |
| Stephanie Lynch, incoming Co-Chair | Boulder |
| Ed Steinberg, incoming Co-Chair | Cherry Creek |

Continuing Activities from Previous Year's Goals:

- ◆ Conduct annual 2-day work session to orient and train new members and to set goals for upcoming year.
- ◆ Completion and dissemination of a CSEAC position paper: *Linking General Education and Special Education*
- ◆ Presented a CSEAC position paper on the topic of Literacy at the Inclusion Conference (January 2002), Courage to Risk Conference (February 2002) and the State Directors of Special Education meeting (May 2002).
- ◆ Continued to develop a relationship between the CSEAC and the Early Intervention Initiatives/Interagency Coordinating Council (CICC) to create more seamless transitions for preschoolers from the infant toddler system (Part C) to the PreK-12 system (Part B).
- ◆ Continued to receive on-going updates on special education legislation and worked to disseminate pertinent information throughout the state.
- ◆ Revised and updated the CSEAC committee brochure.
- ◆ CSEAC members participated in the development of the current State Improvement Plan.

Goals and Progress for 2001-02

GOAL 1

The CSEAC will develop and implement strategies that promote and facilitate communication between and among the Advisory Committee and the State Board, local advisory committees, and all other constituents in the state of Colorado.

- 1.1 Developed and disseminated a questionnaire to all Special Education Directors for the purpose of gathering information about local advisory committees.
- 1.2 Informed Special Education Directors of the activities and influence of the CSEAC and the importance of developing local advisory committees; presented strategies for the development of local advisory committees.
- 1.3 Presented to the State Special Education Directors on two CSEAC position papers: *Literacy* and *Linking General Education to Special Education*
- 1.4 Presented the *Literacy* position paper to the State Board of Education.
- 1.5 Held an integrated meeting with the Interagency Coordinating Council in order to develop strategies for collaborating on transitions from Part C (infant and toddler programs) to Part B (school age children).
- 1.6 Updated web site, by-laws, meeting procedures, brochure, communication processes, new membership orientation, and the membership roster for the purposes of better organization and increasing the effectiveness of the CSEAC.
- 1.7 Developed notebooks for co-chair and sub-committee chairs for the purpose of establishing continuity of information between in-coming and out-going members.

GOAL 2

To contribute to the development of Special Education State Improvement Plan.

- 2.1 Collaborated with the CICC to develop Part C and Part B transition outcomes to include in the State Improvement Plan
- 2.2 In conjunction with the CICC, examined the data on the indicators for successful transitions and made recommendations for expected outcomes to include in 2002-2003 update of State Improvement Plan
- 2.3 Reviewed results of and progress toward 2001-2002 State Improvement Plan goals

GOAL 3

To ensure that the CSEAC is in compliance with all mandates as they pertain to membership and to develop an orientation program for new members.

- 3.1 Provided orientation for the new committee members appointed by the Board.
- 3.2 Developed a new member orientation program

GOAL 4

To develop a new position paper on the subject of recruitment and retention.

- 4.1 Developed a draft of position paper -- *Recruitment and Retention of Special Educators in Colorado* -- that will be considered for approval at the October 2002 meeting.

CSEAC Goals to be addressed in the 2002-03 Year

At the July 2002 work session, the following goals were established for the upcoming year.

1. *Develop a position paper on "School to Career".*
2. *Develop group norms, including sub-committee performance and accountability.*
3. *Determine a plan for dissemination of position papers.*
4. *Plan time in meetings to practice "dialogue vs. discussion".*
5. *Allow time for subcommittee work as part of the regular meetings.*
6. *A task force will study how to simplify the IEP process and paperwork.*

Questions about the above report should be addressed to the 2002-2003 CSEAC Co-Chairpersons, Stephanie Lynch and Ed Steinberg, or to the Executive Assistant to the Committee, Patty Lucio.