



Marie Roth
Director of Student Support

3774 Gentilly Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70122

(504) 841-9102
mroth@theearthurschool.com

Special Education Advisory Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the DTASYM SEPAC is to provide direct input to school leaders about policies, programs, practices, and services that have an impact on students with disabilities and their families. Its purpose is to advise, advocate, and offer guidance, not to decide policy. It is the goal of the DTASYM SEPAC to increase the proactive, productive involvement of families by inviting their input in ways that can be used to shape our special education policy.

Membership:

- 4 DTASYM Parents of Students with Disabilities
- 1 Student enrolled at DTASYM with an educational disability
- 1 DTASYM Special Education Leader
- 1 DTASYM Special Educator
- 1 person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities/families

Member Roles & Responsibilities

All members should:

- Understand the function of a SEAC.
- Develop and maintain knowledge of regulations pertaining to the special education process.
- Attend and participate in SEAC meetings.

Parent members should:

- Participate in outreach that extends to the larger community.
- Establish connections with school committees such as PTA/PTO and community resources.
- Attend and offer oversight/participation for activities and events.
- Explore meetings and events held in other districts.

School district leaders should:

- Work to engage parents of students with disabilities.

- Arrange services and supports to ensure diverse participation (childcare, accessibility of meetings, translation services, etc.).
- Direct parents to appropriate personnel when individual concerns arise.
- Take responsibility for making communication and the flow of information accessible to all parents and guardians through varied formats to increase accessibility.
- Identify areas of concern at assigned schools and seek remedies working with the cooperation of staff in input of all stakeholders.

Meeting Guidelines

The DTASYM SEAC team Members will agree to:

- Cell phones off, avoid cross talk, and listen without interrupting
- Start and end meetings on time and pace agendas so that there is time for all agenda items.
- Protect personally identifiable information so that information published in minutes or announcements will be presented from a group perspective (e.g., “the issue was raised,” not “Jane Doe said”).
- Be clear that the SEAC is not a parent support group. The SEAC can help steer parents with individual concerns to the right resources following the appropriate chain of command.
- Maintain confidentiality of all students

Communication

- Develop and use ground rules that can help all partners in a collaboration know what to expect and develop trust.
- Agree to listen carefully and without judgment.
- Work to establish mutual trust and accountability.
- Try to see things from diverse perspectives.
- Collaboration requires mutual respect.

Meeting Schedule:

Three meetings each year

Topics of Discussion

Topics will be determined by the DTASYM SEAC Team and placed on the agenda prior to each meeting.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Curriculum & Instruction
- Sports and After School Clubs
- School Policy
- ESY
- Related Services
- Programming
- Transition
- Section 504