



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

## Colorado Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 18, 2024  
Wheat Ridge Recreation Center  
4005 Kipling St, Dahlia Room  
Wheat Ridge, CO

**CSEAC Mission:** Our mission is to actively represent children/youth with disabilities and impact decisions made on their behalf to enhance the quality of educational services.

**CSEAC Vision:** All learners are respected and challenged with high expectations, their needs are met, and student aspirations for success are fulfilled.

**Members in Attendance:** Heather Alderman, Julia Allison, Susan Archuleta, Betsy Basch, Cori Canty, Jill Choate, Jessica Cuthbertson, Laurie Ditterline, Amy Dobronyi, Michel Friberg, Nicole Gross, Eva Leon, Jill Pidcock, Shannon Sloane

**Absences:** Shelly Agostine, Kelly Balderston, Erin Camper, Heidi Graber, Samantha Hollister, Amy Rosengrants-Smith, Cassie Sudbeck, Amanda Summers, Shelli Tillery, Kate Tshikalu-John, Ann Wilson

**CDE Staff and Other Guests:** William Brown, Affective Needs / Serious Emotional Disability Specialist, Exceptional Student Services Unit (ESSU), CDE; Beth Donahue, Family Engagement Specialist, ESSU, CDE; Paul Foster, Executive Director, ESSU, CDE; Kat Rains, Dispute Prevention and Assisted Resolution Supervisor, ESSU, CDE; David Ramer, Program Support Assistant, ESSU, CDE; Debora Scheffel, State Board of Education Liaison

Welcome, Introductions, Public Comment and CSEAC Parent Input

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Public Comment: HB24-1296 was brought to CSEAC's attention.
- CSEAC parent input
  - Services are not being used consistently across the state.
  - Parents who are just arriving aren't aware of special education processes.



### Recognition of Outgoing Members

- CSEAC recognized outgoing members.

### CDE and ESSU Updates - Paul Foster, Executive Director, ESSU

- State Complaints – Paul signs off on them.
- Child Find services vary state to state.

### Constituent Input Groups

- Constituent Input Groups met and reported out.

### Information Session: Alternative Dispute Resolution - Katherine Rains, Dispute Prevention and Assisted Resolution Supervisor

- 2023-2024 facilitations to date (April 10, 2024):
  - 115 requests submitted so far (20% above this time last year).
  - 118 survey responses completed so far (28% above last year).

### Updates from the State Board of Education - Deb Scheffel, State Board of Education Liaison

- The board is continuing to work on the standards.
- CSEAC brought HB24-1296 to Dr. Scheffel's attention.

### Subcommittees

- Subcommittees met and reported out.

### Information Session: HB22-1376 - William Brown, Affective Needs/Serious Emotional Disability Specialist

- Bill deals with seclusion and restraint.
  - Supportive Learning Environments for K-12 Students, requires revisions to the Protection of Persons from Restraint Act (PPRA).
  - Restraint rules apply to all students, but of all restraints in Colorado 78% on students with disabilities. (The numbers are similar nationally.)
  - The Department of Education shall create and implement rigorous standards for training school staff and administrators on the "Protection of Individuals from Restraint and Seclusion."

*Respectfully submitted by David Ramer, August 2024*

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.