



Notice of SEAC Organizational Seat Vacancy

December 2021

Michigan's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) is announcing an opportunity to apply for an immediate vacant organizational seat.

The federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) requires that each state establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of advising state entities regarding the education of eligible children with disabilities. In Michigan, that panel is known as the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and it advises the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the Office of Special Education (OSE), and the State Board of Education (SBE).

A previous member organization is unable to continue their commitment. State law allows for 33 members on SEAC. SEAC wishes to return its membership to 33 to ensure a range of expertise and diversity in effectively supporting quality educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

Member organizations do not need to have education as their central focus. We anticipate that viable candidates could come from fields such as counseling, educational data, health, legal services, social services, technology, etc.

The following links provide additional information about SEAC:

- [Legal References](#) including federal and state requirements and expectations.
- [Operating Procedures](#) (formerly known as the Bylaws).
- [Duties and Roles](#)
- [2021-2022 SEAC Membership List](#)

Specifically, the SEAC is seeking applicant organizations who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Statewide in scope, possibly as a state affiliate of a national organization.
2. Membership of at least 200.
3. Specific expertise and action in enhancing the educational outcomes of students with disabilities ages 3-26.
4. The ability to enhance the range of SEAC's diversity of perspectives.
5. Provide a delegate able to consistently participate in SEAC Committee of the Whole monthly meetings both virtually and occasionally in Lansing, typically held the first Wednesday of each month, and also a designated alternate who will attend, particularly if there were an occasion when the delegate could not be available. Both delegates and alternates serve three year terms.



6. The ability to have a delegate who meets the federal criteria for a “defined member.” A defined member is an individual with a disability themselves or a parent of a child who currently receives special education services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Michigan must meet the federal requirement that the majority of its members are defined members. To remain in compliance with SEAC Operating Procedures, all organizations are expected to have a defined member delegate for one of every three, three-year terms.

To ensure balance in the SEAC rotation, the new organization applying for this seat must commit to having a defined member for the 2022–2025 term. The selected organization will then NOT be required to have a defined member delegate again until the 2030–2031 term.

Also, according to SEAC bylaws and procedures, all organizations whose members are primarily community-based family members or advocates are expected to have a defined member delegate every year.

If your organization is interested in being considered for the open SEAC seat, please send a letter of intent to Teri Pettit, SEAC Facilitator, at tpettit@REF4Schools.com or through the U.S. Postal Service to 7300 Green Road, Fenton, MI 48430. The letter should explicitly respond to the six criteria listed above and must be submitted on or before **February 16, 2022** to be considered.

Candidates will be invited to the March 2, 2022 SEAC Committee of the Whole Zoom meeting to make a brief (approximately five minutes) presentation explaining their group’s potential contributions to the SEAC. Following that meeting, SEAC members will vote to recommend a new organizational member. The SEAC will forward this recommendation and the associated rationale to the State Board of Education for approval at a spring meeting.

If it would help your organization decide whether you wish to pursue a seat on the SEAC, please feel free to send a representative to the January 5 and/or February 2, 2022 meeting. The [SEAC Visitor Registration](#) is available on the SEAC website. Registrants will receive details about the meeting location, time, and agenda prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this opportunity.