

# Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Meeting Minutes

8:30 am-1 pm  
October 14 & 15, 2025  
Zoom  
[Registration Required](#)

## First Day, October 14, 2025

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### Open Meeting | 8:30 am

- Call to order - **Tammie Jensen-Tabor, Executive Chairperson**
  - Meeting was called to order at 8:33 am by Tammie
- Land Acknowledgement – **Diana Marker, Executive Vice-Chairperson**
  - Text 907-312-5085 or [click here](#) to identify Native Lands on which you are currently located, and please add to the chat box to honor the Native Lands.
- Introduction of members - **Tammie Jensen-Tabor, Executive Chairperson**
- Review agenda, SEAC [Bylaws](#) – **Samantha Fogg, Executive Member**
- Review and accept minutes from May 2025 meeting – **Diana Marker, Executive Vice-Chairperson**

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### Heritage/Awareness Celebrations | 9:30 am–10 am (30 min)

#### Presenter(s): **Samantha Fogg**

- Disability History Month
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- ADHD Awareness Month
- Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Global Diversity Awareness Month

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### Washington Statewide Family Engagement Center (WASFEC) | 10 am–10:30 am (30 min)

#### Presenter(s): **Ashley Sheppard, Carlina Brown-Banks**

- <https://wasfec.org/resources-for-schools>
- <https://www.highlineschools.org/departments/family-engagement/family-engagement>

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### Break | 10:30 am (15 min)

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## OSPI Updates | 10:45 am–11:15 am (30 min)

Presenter(s): Tania May

- **Federal/State Updates**
  - **Federal Special Education Developments and Washington’s Continued Commitment**
    - Many families and education partners have reached out with concerns regarding reports of layoffs within the U.S. Department of Education, including the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Washington state maintains strong protections for students with disabilities, and special education services in Washington are continuing without interruption. OSPI’s Special Education division remains fully operational. We are monitoring the situation closely and will continue to share updates as more details become available. Please contact [speced@k12.wa.us](mailto:speced@k12.wa.us) with questions.
      - [Superintendent Reykdal’s full statement](#)
      - [Guidance to districts from OSPI](#)
      - [Video update from Tania May](#)
    - Laura Staley shared that families are concerned and it is reassuring to them that OSPI Special Education is standing strong.
  - **Department of Education Layoffs**
    - Widespread layoffs
    - Over 400 layoffs sent-do not know where those layoffs are
    - OSPI working on responding to concerns/questions
    - Role of SEAC will be new to navigate. If stability is not going away, what will the new norm be
- **Legislative priorities**
  - Will not have agency legislative ask this session since [SB 5253](#) was passed
  - [Providing Special Education Services Until Age 22](#)
- **Annual Federal Reporting**
- **Statewide IEP System**
  - Email address: [statewideiep@k12.wa.us](mailto:statewideiep@k12.wa.us)
  - Creating a landing page for questions/status

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## Dispute Resolution and Legal Updates | 11:15 am–11:30 am (15 mins)

Presenter(s): Alyssa Fairbanks, Tania May

- [Update from Dispute Resolution](#)

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## **Public Comment | 11:30 am–Noon**

**Presenter(s): Tammie Jensen-Tabor**

**Topic(s):** All regular meetings of the Special Education Advisory Council are open to the public. The public is encouraged to attend and may give comment only during the designated public comment time frame on the agenda.

The Special Education Advisory Council can be addressed on any matter, but only during the public comment portion of the meeting. Please be aware that the SEAC is not required to respond to any comments, and generally does not.

When it is time for Public Comment, the Executive Chair will ask who is interested in participating, please let the Chair know of your desire to make comment. You will be called on when it is your turn. Each participant will have three (3) minutes for remarks. If the comment is longer than three minutes, the Chair has the responsibility to stop the speaker, and move forward with the next person.

If there is no one interested in giving public comment, the agenda will move forward to the next item on the agenda.

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## **Break | Noon (15 min)**

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### **SEAC Open Positions/Membership | 12:15 pm–12:30 pm (15 min)**

**Presenter(s): Tania May**

- [SEAC Roster Status Oct2025.docx](#)
- **Action Item(s):**
  - SEAC members can email Tania names of potential candidates for open positions.
  - Tania to send invites to those identified as positions SEAC needs to fill.

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### **Summary of Actions | 12:30 pm–1 pm (15 min)**

**Presenter(s): Tammie Jensen-Tabor**

- **Action Item(s):**
  - Members needed – SEAC to send potential candidates to Tania
  - Creating Space for groups to come together
  - Julie Gunter will send comments to SpecEd inbox, Loraine will distribute to SEAC members

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## **Adjourn | 1 pm**

## Day Two

**Date and Time:** October 15, 8:30 am

**Zoom**

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### Open Meeting | 8:30 am–8:45 am

**Presenter(s):** Tammie Jensen-Tabor

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### May Meeting Location/Planning | 8:45 am–9 am (15 mins)

**Presenter(s): All Members**

- May 12 & 13 – Wenatchee (hybrid)
  - **Action Item(s):**
    - Tania to reach out to Stemilt for visit to Wenatchee
    - Pablo to reach out to contractors that provide services in the Wenatchee area to present during the May 12-13 in-person meeting.
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### Community Forum Topics | 9 am–9:30 am (30 mins)

- **Topic(s):**
  - **Deaf-Blind – Tanya Cochran**
    - Reached out, no response yet. Will continue to reach out.
  - **Open Doors – Tania May**
    - Tania having meeting with OD about several things, will add having them for Community Forum.
  - **Transitional Council – Pablo Villareal**
- **Meeting Needs:**
  - What are desired outcomes?
  - Do we need meetings?
  - Timeliness of flyer
  - Struggle to get attendance
  - Can we invite groups to come to SEAC meetings
  - Community engagement/advise
  - Set schedule of topics for entire year
  - Members to get feedback from communities on what they want to hear/see
  - Virtual vs. In-Person?

- Capacity, people's time
- Partner with ESD's to get info out to communities
- Lunch and Learn type format?
- Need to be aligned with our mission
- Need firm commitment from all SEAC members of who they are sharing with.
- **Action Item(s):**
  - Tanya Cochran reached out, received no response. Will continue to reach out.
  - Tania has meeting with OD about several things, will add having them for Community Forum.
  - Tania to reach out to Government Relations about coordinating with legislative week.
  - Tania to invite legislatures to Community Forum.
  - Partnership communication about DVR changes due to funding.
  - Ask Jen to report back re: Future Ready and Department of Education meeting.
  - State Board of Education speak at a meeting
    - Tania will extend invite, and will offer both February and/or May
  - Have Amy Vaughn speak about staff retention and data and monitoring accountability at February meeting.
  - Sam to reach out to State Board of Health to speak at February meeting.

## **2026 Focus & Priorities of SEAC | 9:30 am-10:00 am (30 min)**

**Presenter(s): Tammie Jensen-Tabor, Diana Marker and Samantha Fogg**

## **Annual Report Writing | 10 am-11 am (60 min)**

**Presenter(s): Tammie Jensen-Tabor, Diana Marker and Samantha Fogg**

- Tammie asked that when SEAC members wear other hats in meetings, groups, or boards, to keep list of items that come up and report back to SEAC.
- Diana will create a google doc for members to add other groups/boards that they belong to.

## **Summary of Actions| 11 am-11:30 am (30 min)**

**Presenter(s): Tammie Jensen-Tabor**

- **Action Item(s):**

- Tania – share letter received regarding grant cancellations
- Targeted invites for open SEAC positions
- Update roster on SEAC page
- Send equity review of SpecEd & feasibility study

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**Adjourn | 11:30 am**

# Washington State Special Education Advisory Council Group Norms

1. Commit to a continuous path of improvement to model best practices for accessibility.
2. We recognize and honor the diversity of disability, acknowledging that disabilities may or may not be apparent to others.
3. Use and respect identity language that supports individual preferences, including both identity-first and person-first language.
4. Arrive prepared for the meeting, be present, actively participate, and limit side conversations.
5. Begin and end meetings on time while staying on-task.
6. Strive for a balance of work that identifies what needs improvement and what works well.
7. Have the courage to disagree respectfully while teaching and learning from one another.
8. Allow for a thorough conversation that is respectful while honoring different realities and experiences to be added to the conversation.
9. Be accountable for your impact on others.
10. Listen to understand and assume positive intent.
11. Be responsible to speak for and seek out perspectives from, those not in the room.
12. Always protect confidentiality.
13. Practice self-care.