

SD ADVISORY PANEL FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES MINUTES



Date: September 23, 2026

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Central Time

Location: MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre

Board Members Present

LeAnne Bawek, Kyley Cumbow, Kayla Farlee, Mary Ann Fleury, Katie Gran, Heather Hinnners, Anthony Kozojed, Katie Larson, Stacey Meyer, Darcy Peterson, Brian Poelstra, Emily Quick, Joshua Tommeraus, Jessica Vogel, Kelsey Weismantel, Janet Whiting

Board Member Absent

Jamie Hermann

Staff Members Present

Wendy Trujillo, Linda Turner, Janet Penticoff

Guest

Shauna Crane, Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)

Call to order and Introductions at 9:01 a.m.

LeeAnn Bawek, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. Introductions were made.

Agenda:

- Katie Gran moved to approve the September 23, 2026, agenda. Jessica Vogel seconded.
- Motion carried

Approval of April 9, 2026, meeting minutes:

- Katie Larson moved to approve the minutes. Kayla Farlee seconded.
- Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- None

Annual Business: Election of Officers

- Chairperson: Mary Anne Fleury nominated Brian Poelstra as Chairperson. Darcy Peterson second the nomination.
- Katie Gran moved to cease nominations. Stacey Meyer second.
- Voice voting confirmed the appointment.
- Vice Chairperson: Kayla Farlee nominated Mary Ann Fleury as Vice Chairperson. Darcy Peterson second the nomination.
- Heather Hinnners moved to cease nominations. Katie Larson second.
- Voice voting confirmed the appointment.

Agenda Item: Open Meeting Annual Review

- Members reviewed the open meeting rules.

Agenda Item: Code of Conduct:

- Members reviewed Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest form and returned a signed copy.

Agenda Item: Personal Attendant Rate

- The current personal attendant rate is \$15.96. Anthony Kozojed suggested a rate of \$20 an hour.
- Heather Hinnners moved to raise the rate to \$19.96 an hour. Anthony Kozojed second the motion. Motion carried

Agenda Item: Annual Report

- A draft copy of the annual report was presented to the Panel. Members will have an opportunity to respond to the annual report before it is sent to the Governor's Office.

Department of Education Updates:

- Linda Turner announced the new Part B Data Manager is Farha Labonnya.
- The 2027 Teacher of the Year (TOY) was announced by the Department of Education and Christina Berger from Harrisburg won.
- The South Dakota Department of Education (SD DOE) requested and was granted a waiver of the strict paraprofessional qualification requirements under ESEA to allow our Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) additional flexibility in certifying qualified instructional support professionals in Title I Schoolwide programs and those supported with Title I, Part A funds.
- The federal Office of Special Education published State determinations and South Dakota meets requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) for FFY2024.
- Wendy Trujillo gave an overview of the Differential Monitoring Support System 2.0 (DMS) Federal Review of the State Education Agency and how the panel will be involved over the next year.
- A data drill down meeting with Stakeholders was held on September 16, 2026, in Pierre. Stakeholders identified indicators 1, 2, 13 and 14 as an area of needed focus.
- Wendy Trujillo gave an overview of the Dispute Resolution 2025-2026 Results. The top six issues in dispute align with issues being seen in other areas, such as accountability. Those are IEP development, IEP implementation, Prior Written Notice, Meaningful Parent Participation, Progress Monitoring and

Placement Decision. Technical assistance and professional development will be geared toward these over the next year.

Agenda Item: Priority Area

- Shana Crane with the TAESE facilitated the panel Priority Area development.
- The panel completed activities to identify the areas of need throughout South Dakota related to special education services and support. Discussion revolved around what the panel could do to support the work within a year that would make the most impact on students with disabilities.
- The panel determined that training and guidance for paraprofessionals is a need. The panel will further investigate what is currently being done and whether or not there are gaps that the panel could develop further action on.
- Action Steps to be taken for priority area are:
 - Identifying current resources
 - Creating awareness of current resources
 - Determining gaps in resources
 - Developing guidance on specific disabilities
 - Asking LEA's to share their resources
 - Informing LEA administrators of available state resources
 - Focusing on developing a community for paraprofessionals to come together

Meeting Take Away for Annual Report

- Election of Officers
- DMS2.0 Update
- State Determinations
- Data Drill Down Stakeholders Meeting
- New Priority Area Established

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting is scheduled in Pierre on January 13, 2027.

Adjournment at 2:22 PM.

- Katie Gran moved to adjourn the meeting. Darcy Peterson second.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:22 PM.