Oklahoma IDEA-B Advisory Panel

September 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Dr. Erin Baird, Carri Baldwin, Amy Beams, Tania Bleecker, Renee Sansom-Briscoe, Bridget Carr, Dr. Allison Fennell-Conch, Dr. Kaylin Coody, Liberty Daniels, Dr. Michele DeBerry, Darci Forrester, Tricia Forsgren, Dr. Joshua Hawkins, Tiffany Jenkins, Michelle Keiper, Lisa Kelly, Dr. Heather Laine, Ana Lankford, Dr. Kathryn Moore, Janice Morris, Brent Pearce, Amy Pemberton, Paulette Pitt, Jen Randle, Erin Scott, Viviana Skidmore, Tammy Smith, April Stephenson, Kari Stomprud, Amy Swartz, Maressa Treat, Kathy Trout, Kenny Ward, and Tressa Wilson.

Members Absent

Micaela Bishop, Kendra Cope, Maria Dianda, Tyler Dickson, Shelli Jacobs, Darci Kuchynka, Sharon Coppedge-Long, Darcie Parton-Scoon, Dyan Riley, Addy Sams, Alisha Sams, and Addison Trout.

Oklahoma State Department of Education – Office of Special Education Services Staff Present

Sherri Coats, Abby Johnson, Christan Resz, and Tina Spence

Introduction

Oklahoma State Department of Education leadership approved the appointment of 14 new Advisory Panel members, including parents, community organization representatives, and students. All new members participated in a Membership Orientation earlier in the day to enhance their understanding of the Panel's role and responsibilities.

An overview of the upcoming year's meeting topics was presented, centered around the eight components of the general supervision system: State Performance Plan; Policies,

Procedures, and Effective Instruction; Integrated Monitoring Activities; Fiscal Management; Data on Processes and Results; Improvement, Correction, Incentives, and Sanctions; Effective Dispute Resolution; and Targeted Technical Assistance and Professional Development. This focus is particularly important as the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will monitor all states, including Oklahoma, in 2028 as part of a five-year cycle evaluating general supervision systems for both Part B and Part C programs.

Along with this, the Panel was provided information regarding the recent revisions to the Operating Guidelines. Such revisions included defining the purpose of the Advisory Panel, establishing policies and procedures, and providing clarity on the duties and expectations of each Panel member.

Lastly, the Panel was informed of the submission of the Annual Report on September 1 to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Members were provided a hard copy of the report at the meeting.

FY26 Dispute Resolution Data

Christan Resz, Program Manager for Dispute Resolution, presented on how the Oklahoma State Department of Education – Office of Special Education Services (OSDE-SES) supports a formal complaint system pertaining to allegations of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – Part B.

The presentation focused on State Complaint data from the 2025-2026 school year. Highlighting the number of complaints received for the 2025-2026 school year and the allegations associated with each complaint.

Dr. Allison Fennell-Conch of the Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) presented on IEP Facilitation, Mediation, and Due Process.

The presentation highlighted the differences between each option, data from the 2025-2026 school year, and community of practice resources.

Due Process data from the 2025-2026 school year was also shared. The data highlighted the number of due process requests, the issues associated with each request, and how many requests were settled, dismissed, or withdrawn.

Priority Setting – Purpose, Selection, and Impact

The Panel was provided an overview presentation on priority setting, specifically the purpose, selection, and impact of the priorities.

The priorities shape the Panel's discussions, align its work with statewide needs, and ensure recommendations are reflective of the most pressing issues affecting students with disabilities in Oklahoma.

Ultimately, the panel priorities generate recommendations to the OSDE-SES. Such recommendations can lead to changes in statewide practices relative to special education and related services as a whole. Additionally, the recommendations are incorporated into the Annual Report which is submitted annually to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

For the 2026-2027 panel year, members will select new priorities to provide recommendations to OSDE-SES. Following the finalization of the priorities, members will be assigned to priority subcommittees based on chosen priorities, each led by a designated group leader.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.