



Northshore Charter School
Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
Annual Report
2025-2026

Submitted 5/29/26

Purpose and Authority

The SEAC provides parents, educators, and community stakeholders an ongoing forum to advise the school on services and supports for students with disabilities, pursuant to R.S. 17:1944. R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education. The council's work focuses on improving family engagement, promoting equitable practices, and identifying resources and supports to improve student outcomes.

Membership

Member	Role/Title
Jennifer Clelland	Parent
Melissa Kennedy	Teacher
Terri McClendon	Teacher
Dianthe' Rose	Education Liaison
Lindsay Singletary	Parent
Shelby Temples	City Council Member
Erica Tesseo	Parent

Executive Summary

During the 2025–2026 school year, the Northshore Charter School Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) met regularly to strengthen family engagement, clarify school procedures affecting students with disabilities, and plan centralized resources for families. The council developed a multi-channel communications approach, identified parent-engagement strategies including a monthly newsletter, reviewed the student handbook for clarity related to disability supports and procedures, and planned a Resource Fair (or a dedicated Resource Area at Open House) for the 2026–2027 school year.

Meetings

November 2025

- Agenda:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O16tNnxcdCwcUtyOzAWnpHkGyWYH_tLkiVh0C-1Ymjo/edit?usp=sharing
- Summary: At the November meeting the council established a plan to share SEAC information broadly and consistently. Members agreed on a multi-channel communications approach that includes the school website, a SEAC Facebook presence, paper notices for families without reliable internet access, and posting SEAC events on the monthly school calendar. The group's objective was to increase family awareness of SEAC activities and the supports available through the school and partner agencies.

January 2026

- Agenda:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1O16tNnxcdCwcUtyOzAWnpHkGyWYH_tLkiVh0C-1Ymjo/edit?usp=sharing
- Summary: In January the council focused on parent engagement strategies. The SEAC decided to develop family engagement incentives, start a monthly Special Education newsletter (covering IEP basics, resource links, and reminders), and plan a beginning-of-year Resource Fair to connect families with school and community services.

March 2026

- Agenda:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-2QKtSF_1vmSocpislqc_cnIX6EG6_nB8WT10XXscYQ/edit?usp=sharing
- Summary: During the March meeting members reviewed the Student Handbook and proposed clarifications to ensure consistent expectations and procedures for students with disabilities. The council clarified that students with disabilities are held to the same conduct expectations while ensuring appropriate supports. Members reviewed the Manifestation Determination Process and discussed its practical application. The group also examined field trip procedures, particularly for students with Autism or active Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs), and recommended clearer guidance on chaperone requirements to support safety and inclusion.

May 2026

- Agenda:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fllkXU9V-LJGQBhbj_LkpGVhlfKEdhTYE2-lj-ZwVy8/edit?usp=sharing

- Summary: At the final meeting of the year, SEAC finalized plans to increase family access to resources. The council agreed to pursue a resource station at the Open House of the 2026–2027 school year and devised an alternative plan to create a dedicated Resource Area during Open House. Members discussed possible community and agency participants, table logistics, outreach responsibilities, and next steps for coordination.

Major Topics & Recommendations

- Communications: Adopt the multi-channel SEAC communications plan (website, social media, printed notices, calendar).
- Parent Engagement: Implement family engagement incentives and launch the monthly Special Education newsletter to provide families with practical information and reminders.
- Handbook Clarity: Update Student Handbook language to clarify conduct expectations, the Manifestation Determination Process, and field-trip procedures/accommodations.
- Resource Access: Organize a Resource Fair or establish a Resource Area at Open House to centralize information from school and community providers.

Accomplishments

- Developed a plan for consistent outreach and communications to families regarding SEAC and special-education resources.
- Identified and planned parent engagement strategies including incentives and a monthly Special Education newsletter.
- Reviewed and recommended clarifications for the Student Handbook to better support students with disabilities.
- Laid groundwork and assigned preliminary responsibilities for a Resource Fair / Resource Area to be held at the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

Plans / Next Steps

- Finalize Resource Fair logistics: set date, confirm location, invite community agencies, and assign table coordination duties.
- Produce and distribute the inaugural Special Education newsletter prior to the start of the next school year.
- Work with school administration to implement recommended handbook clarifications and publish updated language.

- Publish meeting agendas and minutes on the school website and ensure materials are available in print for families with limited internet access.

Communications & Outreach

- Planned channels: school website, SEAC Facebook posts, printed notices sent home, and inclusion in the monthly school calendar.
- Materials to prepare prior to the Resource Fair/Open House: newsletter template, Resource Fair flyer, webpage with SEAC resources and links to agendas/minutes.

Challenges / Needs

- Volunteer support to staff the Resource Fair and manage the Resource Area during Open House.
- Printing resources and postage or handout costs for families without reliable internet access.
- Coordination and final confirmation of participating community agencies and service providers.