# KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Dedicated to the Education of ''ALL''

# KANSAS



## **Annual Report**

July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

Student Support Services
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### **Table of Contents**

Secretary's Report	i
Introduction	1
Kansas Special Education Advisory Council	1
Council Membership	2
Council Leadership	5
Operational Standards	5
Council Accomplishments	5
Appendix A: SEAC Action Plan	7

### **Secretary's Report**

The overarching focus of Kansas special education is to improve outcomes for students and their families. Services for students who have special educational needs in Kansas are continuously improving because of the dedication and commitment of many exemplary teachers and administrators who are supported by concerned and invested parents who work in partnership with the schools. Another Kansas asset, often overlooked because of their work behind the scenes of Kansas education, is the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). The primary motivation for individuals to accept appointments to SEAC is the focus on quality improvement in the Kansas education system, particularly as it relates to students with special needs. The SEAC members voluntarily meet on a regular basis, study issues of significance, provide a representative advocacy function, and advise the Student Support Services team on matters of special education. This report summarizes the activity and accomplishments of SEAC for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

SEAC continues to function as an advisory panel to the Kansas State Board of Education. The State Board appoints members to SEAC. SEAC advises the State Board in five key areas as required by the implementing regulations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and by Kansas Statutes. Those areas include:

- ✓ Advising the State Education Agency on unmet needs
- ✓ Commenting publicly on rules and regulations
- ✓ Advising the State Education Agency in developing evaluations and reporting on data
- ✓ Advising the State Education Agency in developing federal monitoring reports
- ✓ Advising the State Education Agency in developing and implementing policies related to coordination
  of services

SEAC has represented its constituencies well during the past year and has been productively engaged in fulfilling its legal commitments and mission on behalf of students. SEAC's 2006 – 2007 accomplishments are wide ranging. To summarize, SEAC has been involved in these activities of importance:

- ✓ Provide oversight of the implementation of IDEA and state regulations through review of the Continuous Improvement Monitoring (CIM) and focused monitoring, due process & formal complaint and educational advocates
- ✓ Review and comment on the Kansas Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to OSEP
- ✓ Study and advise on issues identified in APR: Early Childhood least restrictive environment, positive behavioral support, secondary transition, vocational special needs, and student intervention teams
- ✓ Promote interagency work through discussions with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and agencies collaborating on the Foster Care database
- Study practices impacting disproportional representation in Special Education
- ✓ Study Effective Schools Advisory Council practices
- ✓ Review of funding alternatives for Kansas special education
- ✓ Study issues of state assessments as they relate to students with disabilities
- ✓ Review and comment on State Improvement Grant (SIG) projects
- ✓ Serve as a sounding board for the public and current and emerging public organizations
- ✓ Review the implementation of the redesign of teacher licensure
- ✓ Review and comment on the KSDE coordination of services
- ✓ Monitor and advise on reimbursement for categorical aid issues
- ✓ Monitor and advise on issues related to secondary transition and bringing Kansas into compliance in this area
- Review of state and federal special education funding, including categorical aid, IDEA funds and Medicaid
- Monitor and review state and federal legislative issues

SEAC serves a valuable role in representing the stakeholders of Kansas special education services. There is no question that because of SEAC's investment in the future, students with special needs will have a better chance of fulfilling their lifelong dreams. The State of Kansas is fortunate to have an active and involved SEAC.

Colleen Riley,

Team Leader Student Support Services

Secretary of the Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (2006 – 2007)

### **Annual Report**

### Kansas Special Education Advisory Council July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007

### Introduction

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) has met for six one or two-day meetings during the 2006 – 2007 school year. Their primary areas of emphasis during the past year were on the following:

- ✓ Provide oversight of the implementation of IDEA and state regulations through review of Focused Assistance & Monitoring, due process & formal complaint and educational advocates
- ✓ Review and comment on the Kansas Annual Performance Report (APR) and State Performance Plan (SPP) submitted to OSEP
- ✓ Study and advise on issues identified in APR: Early Childhood least restrictive environment, positive behavioral support, secondary transition, vocational special needs, and student intervention teams
- ✓ Promote interagency work through discussions with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and agencies collaborating on the Foster Care database
- ✓ Study practices impacting disproportional representation in Special Education
- ✓ Study Effective Schools Advisory Council practices
- ✓ Review of funding alternatives for Kansas special education
- ✓ Study issues of state assessments as they relate to students with disabilities.
- ✓ Review and comment on State Improvement Grant (SIG) projects
- ✓ Serve as a sounding board for the public and current and emerging public organizations
- ✓ Review the implementation of the redesign of teacher licensure
- ✓ Review and comment on the KSDE coordination of services
- ✓ Monitor and advise on reimbursement for categorical aid issues
- ✓ Monitor and advise on issues related to secondary transition and bringing Kansas into compliance in this area
- Review of state and federal special education funding, including categorical aid. IDEA funds and Medicaid
- ✓ Monitor and review state and federal legislative issues

It is anticipated that the SEAC Action Plan priority areas for 2007 – 2008 will reflect the following areas:

✓ Priority Area 1: Advising the State Education Agency on unmet needs

✓ Priority Area 2: Comment publicly on any rules or regulations

✓ Priority Area 3: Advise the State Education Agency in developing

evaluations and reporting on data

✓ Priority Area 4: Advise the State Education Agency in developing federal

monitoring reports

✓ Priority Area 5: Advise the State Education Agency in developing and

Implementing policies related to coordination of services

For each priority area, key areas of activity are also identified and can be reviewed in the Appendix A (2006-07 SEAC Action Plan).

### **Kansas Special Education Advisory Council**

The SEAC is composed of individuals in, or concerned with, the education of children with exceptionalities. The council performs such duties as specified by law, statute or regulation and as outlined in the Kansas SEAC manual. The major responsibilities of the council are to advise, consult and provide recommendations to the Kansas State

Board of Education regarding matters concerning special education services. Much of the work is directed through the Student Support Services team.

The primary role of the council is as an advocate for achieving excellence, equity and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. As such, it is committed to representing individuals with diverse and changing educational needs. The role of advocate presupposes a sensitivity and responsiveness to these needs. This responsibility leads the SEAC to support the vision and mission of KSBE and the Learning Services Division - Student Support Services:

#### Vision

Schools will work with families and communities to prepare students for success.

### Mission

The mission of the Kansas State Department of Education Division of Learning Services is to work collaboratively to provide leadership for continuous improvement of educational systems to insure and enhance learning for all students in Kansas.

### **SEAC Goal**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council will advocate for an educational system that achieves excellence, equity, and lifelong learning for all students in Kansas.

### **SEAC Beliefs**

The Kansas Special Education Advisory Council is committed to life long learning. SEAC believes that:

- Partnerships increase collaboration for better services.
- Visionary leadership is essential for appropriate services to meet the needs of all students.
- Innovation is essential to the process of life long learning.
- All child service systems must be provided in an integrated and collaborative manner.
- Education is an evolving process that requires innovation, continuous growth, and evaluation.
- The needs of individuals in a diverse community must be met.

### **Council Membership**

The SEAC is composed of eighteen individuals concerned with the education of children with exceptionalities and the state director of Student Support Services. Nine of the members of the council are individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities. The 2006-2007 membership include:

# State Advisory Council for Special Education FY 2006-07

Council Member	Address	Telephone	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
Shirley Armentrout	Most Pure Heart School 6934 SW 33 <sup>rd</sup> St. Topeka KS 66614 shirarm@mphm.com	785-478- 4090	Private Schools *	4 (Bill Wagnon	June 2007 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Kendra Bittner	1837 S. Osage Drive Ottawa, KS 66067 kendrabittner@sbcglobal.net	785-242- 8011	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	3 (John Bacon)	June 2009 (1st term)
VACANT			Juvenile Justice		June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Susan Clayton	PO Box 86 Mullinville KS 67109 ronandsusanc@yahoo.com	620-548- 2520	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	7 (Ken Willard)	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
VACANT			Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *		June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Mike Donnelly	KS Rehabilitation Services 3640 SW Topeka Blvd Ste 150 Topeka KS 66611 MDonnelly@srskansas.org	785-267- 5301 Ext. 202	Parent of a Child or Person with a Disability *	4 (Bill Wagnon )	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Janice Frahm	1553 County Road T Colby, KS 67701 jfrahm@st-tel.net	785-462- 7388	LEA Official *	5 (Connie Morris)	June 2009 (1st term)
Neil Guthrie (Chair-elect)	USD 259 201 N Water Wichita KS 67202 nguthrie@usd259.net	316-973- 4425	Local Education Official	8 (Carol Rupe)	June 2007 (1st term)
Mary Lou Heller	North Central KS SpEd Coop 693 2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue West Glade KS 67639 kitsjamjarr@nckcn.com	785-863- 2254 (Osborne Elem)	Teacher *	5 (Connie Morris)	June 2009 (1st term)
Robert Maile, Ph.D. Chair	KS School for the Deaf 450 E. Park Olathe KS 66061 rmaile@ksd.state.ks.us	913-791- 0573	State Education Official	3 (John Bacon)	June 2007 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)

Council Member	Address	Telephone	Representation	Board Region	Appointment Expires
Larry Meyer	SE KS ESC – Greenbush PO Box 19227 Topeka KS 66619 larry.meyer@greenbush.org	785-862- 7840	Adult Corrections	1 (Janet Waugh)	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Bert Moore	410 N Hobart Severy KS 67137 bmoore@sktc.net	620-374- 2113	Administrator of Exceptional Programs; Homeless education	9 (Iris Van Meter)	June 2008 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
Krista Morris	SRS – HCP 915 SW Harrison St. Docking SOB 10 <sup>th</sup> Floor N. Topeka KS 66612-1570 klc@srskansas.org	785-296- 7277	Other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children	4 (Bill Wagnon )	June 2007 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Ruth Santner	Dept. of SRS 915 SW Harrison Room 551 South Topeka KS 66612-1570 RAXS@srskansas.org	785-368- 8186	Foster Care Agency	4 (Bill Wagnon )	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Vicki Sharp	5209 W. 68 <sup>th</sup> Prairie Village, KS 66208 vlcsharp@kc.rr.com	913-634- 5330	Parent of a Child - with Giftedness *	2 (Sue Gamble)	June 2008 (1 <sup>st</sup> term - partial)
Sean Smith	University of Kansas 1122 W Campus Road JRP 538 Lawrence, KS 66045 seanj@ku.edu	785-331- 2974	IHE Special Education *	4 (Bill Wagnon )	June 2009 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Pam Sumner	Delia Charter School 334 Nora Ave. Delia KS 66418 sumnerp@kawvalley.k12.ks. us	785-771- 3470	Public Charter Schools	6 (Kathy Martin)	June 2007 (1 <sup>st</sup> term)
Josie Torrez	1832 SW Webster Topeka KS 66604 jtorrez2@cox.net	785-224- 1872	Vocational, community or business organization concerned with provision of transition services *	4 (Bill Wagnon )	June 2007 (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)

### **Council Leadership**

The officers for the 2006-2007 year were: Chair, Bob Maile (Olathe, KS); Vice-Chair, Neil Guthrie (Wichita, KS). They were unanimously elected to fulfill the obligations of these positions at the April 2006 council meeting.

The 2006-2007 Executive Committee comprised of: Bob Maile, Chair; Neil Guthrie, Vice-Chair; Colleen Riley, Secretary; and two appointed members, one of whom must be a parent of a child with a disability or a person with a disability. These two members were Pam Sumner and Susan Clayton . The executive committee met one time prior to each SEAC meeting to establish the SEAC agenda, and represented the council at CEC and OSEP Leadership Conference.

### **Operational Standards**

The SEAC's 2006-2007 meeting schedule was as follows:

Meeting Date	Location
July 26 '06	Airport Hilton Hotel, Wichita KS
October 10 '06	Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka KS
November 21 '06	KS School for the Deaf
January 9-10 '07	KSDE, Topeka KS
February 13 ;07	KSDE, Topeka KS
April 10 '07	KSDE, Topeka KS

The Council must conduct a minimum of four (4) regular, one-day meetings. The 2006-2007 year exceeded this standard by holding six meetings, one of which was a two-day meeting. No other special work sessions or public input sessions were held.

Official minutes of the meetings were kept, reviewed at each following meeting for accuracy, and posted on the KSDE Student Support Services website at <a href="https://www.kansped.org">www.kansped.org</a>.

A public comment period was offered at each SEAC meeting. There were three occasions that this portion of the meeting was filled this year

### **Council Accomplishments**

Appendix A provides a summary of the activities completed for the 2006-2007 school year by Priority and Action Area.

# **Appendix A**

2006-2007 SEAC Action Plan

# Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Action Plan 2006-2007

The purpose of the SEAC is to advocate for achieving excellence, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities for all students in Kansas. It is the responsibility of SEAC to:

- Advise the Special Education Administrators (SEA) of <u>unmet needs</u> within the state in the education of children with exceptionalities;
- Comment publicly on any <u>rules and regulations</u> proposed by the state regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and <u>reporting on data</u> to the secretary under Section 618 of the Act;
- Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal Monitoring reports under Part B of the Act; and
- Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the <u>coordination of services</u> for children with exceptionalities.

To meet these responsibilities, the Kansas SEAC outlines the following action plan.

### 1. Area of Focus: Advising the SEA of unmet needs

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
1.1	Increase awareness & understanding of provision of services from the public perspective	<ul> <li>SpEd Parent Survey</li> <li>On-line public comment forum</li> </ul>	Public comment notifications posted on <a href="https://www.kansped.org">www.kansped.org</a> website, and sent on public listserve (SpEd Express).  11/06:  Members reviewed an e-mail communication voicing concerns about the Special Education state assessment – 2% KAMM, 1% alternate assessment, and grade level comparison between Special Education and regular education	Members will receive updates
1.2	Develop recommendations and suggested solutions for unmet needs.	<ul><li>Autism</li><li>Gifted</li><li>Seclusion/Restraint</li></ul>	<ul> <li>4/07:</li> <li>Members received a report from a committee on the study of an Autism Waiver</li> </ul>	Members will receive updates

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<ul> <li>2/07:</li> <li>Members adopted a letter of support to the State Board of Education encouraging adoption of the KSDE Seclusion/Restraint Guideline as opposed to adoption of a regulations document.</li> <li>Members received draft SRS Proposal for an Early Intervention Autism Waiver.</li> <li>Members received a draft document regarding Gifted IEP was distributed to members.</li> </ul>	Members will receive updates  Members will receive/review final document
		<ul> <li>11/06:</li> <li>Members were made aware that KSDE Deaf Education Guidelines are being drafted and are expected to be reviewed for public comment</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review draft document prior to going out for public comment

### 2. Area of Focus: Comment publicly on any rules or regulations

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
2.1	Study and provide comment on proposed federal and state laws and regulations and assist in implementation of changes.	• state and federal web sites		Members will receive/review final document

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		NCLB sub-committee met to develop "talking points" document that members will utilize for future planning.	Members were provided document
2.2 Increase awareness and visibility of SEAC.		<ul> <li>Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on www.kansped.org website, and sent our on public listserve (SpEd Express).</li> <li>4/07:</li> <li>Member provided an overview of their attendance at the KSDE Law Conference.</li> <li>2/07:</li> <li>Provided letter of support to the State Board of Education concerning adoption of the KSDE Seclusion/Restraint Guideline.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>1/07:</li> <li>Members were introduced to the SBOE and answered questions regarding the 2006-07 SEAC Annual Report which SBOE members received. Dr. Bob Maile provided a short presentation of SEAC activities to the SBOE.</li> <li>Members hosted the SBOE to a breakfast get-acquainted meeting.</li> <li>Members provided the SBOE a "talking points" position paper voicing concerns with NCLB reauthorization.</li> </ul>	
		7/06:	

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
		<ul> <li>Members attended the KSDE Leadership Conference in Wichita, KS.</li> <li>Members provided an overview of the OSEP Annual Conference they attended in Washington, DC.</li> </ul>	
2.3 Monitor and disseminate data related to placement, LRE, and IEP quality and recommend improvement strategies to the SEA.	<ul> <li>Placement by ethnic groups &amp; categories</li> <li>LRE data by district, trend data</li> <li>IEP monitoring data</li> <li>IEP training materials</li> <li>EC LRE data</li> <li>Statewide IEP</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>1/07:</li> <li>Members received information about the CEC clearinghouse on research-based strategies – what works and doesn't.</li> <li>Members received information concerning an SRS project to Keys for Networking, designed to help improve the graduation rate for out-of-home placed youth age 15 and older by looking at records and accessing services for these youth.</li> <li>Members received a draft document regarding Gifted IEP.</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review final document

### 3. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA in developing evaluations, reporting on data and in responding to federal monitoring.

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
3.1	Provide oversight of the implementation of federal and state special education laws and new regulations to ensure Kansas has effective systems in place to monitor compliance and support improved achievement and outcomes for children & students with disabilities	<ul> <li>Data for APR indicators</li> <li>Data &amp; review of due process hearings, mediation &amp; formal complaints</li> <li>Monitoring data</li> <li>File review data</li> <li>Focused Monitoring data</li> <li>618 data</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>11/06:</li> <li>Members were informed that the KSDE SSS Process Handbook is being updated with an expected fall, 2007 release.</li> <li>7/06:</li> <li>Members provided an overview of the OSEP Annual Conference they attended in Washington, DC</li> <li>Members participated in OSEP monitoring pre-visit conference calls.</li> <li>Members discussed "talking points" around reauthorization of 2004 IDEA in 2007</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review final document
3.2	Assist in the dissemination of information in the area of transition to help ensure Kansas can demonstrate compliance with IDEA 2004 and regulations.		<ul> <li>1/07:</li> <li>Members provided feedback on the draft State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07</li> </ul>	Members will provide continued input as needed
3.3	Analyze the effect the adopted licensure design has on the quality of special education services.		<ul> <li>4/07:</li> <li>Members received an update of the Performance-based Licensing System and Standards, as mandated by the State Board in 1992.</li> </ul>	Members will receive updates
3.4	Analyze the data on the educational progress of students with exceptionalities and make recommendations to enhance their educational program, services, and achievement.	<ul> <li>AYP results</li> <li>State assessment data</li> <li>Suspension/expulsion data</li> <li>Graduation/drop-out rates</li> <li>EC achievement</li> <li>Post-secondary outcomes</li> <li>Transition follow-up data</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>4/07:</li> <li>Members received an overview of an ad-hoc committee's work on a draft Bill of Rights for Deaf &amp; Hard of Hearing Children</li> <li>2/07:</li> <li>SEAC provided a letter to the State</li> </ul>	Members will receive updates  Members will receive/review final

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
Priority Areas	(TOPS) • APR/SPP • File Review • Autism Guidelines • Seclusion/Restraint	Action Completed  Board of Education members during the board's public hearing on seclusion and restraint regulations, in support of the proposed guidelines, with the recommendation to include careful monitoring of compliance and an annual summary presented to and reviewed by the SEAC.  • Members received information concerning how Kansas identifies dyslexia and how services are provided.  1/07:  • KSDE staff Jeanette Souther & Dr. Margy Hornback reported on the progress for completion of the State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07, which consists of reporting data on 20 indicators. The Annual Performance Report (APR) is an update/progress report of the SPP.  10/06:  • Members were updated on the work being done by the SPP stakeholders group to assist development of targets for 20 indicators.	Members will receive/review final document
3.5 As stakeholders, assist in the interpretation of Kansas	APR & SPP	concerning statewide public hearings on Autism Guidelines vs. Regulations.  2/07:  • Members reviewed the State	Members will be updated.
data in reporting to the		Performance Report & Annual	

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
public and federal government.		Performance Reports that was submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs on February 1	
		<ul> <li>'07.</li> <li>1/07:</li> <li>Members provided feedback on the draft State Performance Report (SPP) that is to be submitted to OSEP by February 1 '07</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review final document
		<ul> <li>10/06:</li> <li>Members were updated on the work being done by the SPP stakeholders group to assist development of targets for 20 indicators.</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates

### 4. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA on personnel development

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
4.1	Evaluate the conditions of special education teachers in Kansas, and study relevant issues and assist with dissemination of information about improving retention of special education teachers.	Personnel reports	<ul> <li>Members received an update of the Building-level Administration Graduate Program @ KU from Tom Skrtic.</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates
4.2	Ascertain supply & diversity of Special Education personnel available to all geographic areas.	Personnel reports		

### 5. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies related to coordination of services

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
5.1	Enhance school-family- community partnerships by encouraging and developing coordinated programs and/or services.	• Parent survey for SPP Indicator 8	<ul> <li>11/06:</li> <li>Members were provided an overview of Kansas School for the Blind proposed statewide plan of training, resources and support for families who have young children with hearing loss to ensure they receive comprehensive, unbiased information and support through regional consultation within the tiny-k networks.</li> </ul>	
5.2	Promote and enhance the blending of services between special and general education, including federal, state, and local programs (Title I, Special Ed.)	KSDE multi-tiered model for statewide use	<ul> <li>2/07</li> <li>Members were provided an overview of training opportunities that provide educators in Kansas with a pro-active approach to schools that are restructuring academic and behavior supports to improve outcomes for all students.</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates
			<ul> <li>1/07</li> <li>Members received information about KSDE's development of a guidance document around a multi-tier model of providing high-quality instruction and interventions matched to student need in general education.</li> <li>2/07:</li> </ul>	Members will receive/review final document
5.3	Review & acknowledge		Members received an overview of a proposed 2007-2012 Kansas State Personnel Development Grant Application  4/07:	

Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
blended programs including		Members agreed to take a position to	
mental health issues.		support KSDE as lead agency for Part	
		C Infant & Toddler Services by	
		addressing the Governor with a letter	
		of support	
		1/07:	
		<ul> <li>Members received information about</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates
		a change to Lead Agency for Part C	
		Infant and Toddler Services, along	
		with the copy of a letter to the	
		Governor's Office.	

### 6. Area of Focus: Advise the SEA on student identification

	Priority Areas	Data Sources	Action Completed	Result
6.1	Review & evaluate the system to identify underrepresented students	• SPP	<ul> <li>1/07:</li> <li>Members received an update of the Infinitec Coalition which supports assistive technology and training to district staff. 52% of districts statewide currently participate.</li> <li>Members received a handout comparison from KASB of public &amp; private school services.</li> </ul>	Members will receive periodic updates