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# Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee

— DCSD Board of Education Update: —  
October 2022

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# What is DCSEAC



The Douglas County Special Education Advisory Committee is a group of parent volunteers that provide advice and recommendations to improve services for students with disabilities. With district-wide collaboration, we hope to improve the services and achievements for students with disabilities.

The *mission* of the DCSEAC is to work collaboratively with the Douglas County Department of Personalized Learning, families and other stakeholders to influence and support programming that meets the unique needs of all learners.

The *vision* of the DCSEAC is to gather and communicate information to influence and support programming for students in special education within Douglas County School District.

Currently, our board is made up of 12 DCSD parents/guardians, all who have a child/children served by Special Education. Our bi-monthly meetings include the Deputy Superintendent, the directors of special education, two BOE representatives, Pre-K and Bridge leads, and one community-based representative.

# DCSEAC Information and Support Groups

**DCSEAC's core activity is our monthly Information & Support Groups**



- The **parent-to-parent** dynamic is special, unique, and important
- **Social Emotional Health** - participants are able to connect emotionally, but also use their combined expertise to work on real-life challenges
- **Information & resource sharing** - not limited to DCSD (ie - community engagement, private therapies, waiver programs, guardianship)
- **Guest Speakers** - District specialists and Community Program Directors
- **Support Group Celebrations** -SSN Breakfast, AN Park Picnic, etc.

# **Current Information & Support Groups**

**Significant Support Needs** - Meets 2nd Tuesday, 10:00 am - 11:30 am @ The Lone Tree Library. Contact [Natalie Mock](#) to join.

**Affective Needs** - Meets the 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm via Zoom. Contact [Aleia Mastroianni](#) to join.

**Special Education** - Meets the 1st Monday, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm via Zoom. Contact [Matt Burkhart](#) to join.

**Dad's/Guardian's Group** - (Upcoming)

Connect with DCSEAC through our [Facebook](#) page or [website](#).

# Shining Star



Shining Star is DCSEAC's way of honoring Douglas County employees who go above and beyond to help students who receive special education services. Last year, we received 203 nominations which represented 62 schools and positions throughout the district.

- Parents and caregivers can nominate an educator for a Shining Star award throughout the month of February.
- There is a separate category for school inclusion.
- Every nominee and school will receive a certificate with their nomination printed on it.
- At our district meeting in March 2023, 20 nominees will be selected at random to receive a gift basket sponsored by Developmental Pathways and community donations.
- Baskets are delivered in April by our parent members to finish out our Shining Star season. Best day of the year!



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# DCSEAC Review: 2021-2022

1. **Alternatives to Suspension Task Force** - monthly work meetings; multidisciplinary team of parents, SpEd Leadership, Behavioral Team. Work continues into the 2022-2023 school year
2. **Affective Needs Summit** - feedback on Summit content, DCSEAC presentation, AN Support Group Parent Presentation, DCSEAC hosted breakfast and dessert table, and donation on nearly 40 raffle prizes
3. **Recruitment** - Reworked DCSEAC mission statement, Board expectations, accepted applications, conducted interviews, and welcomed 5 additional Board Members.
4. **SpEd Talks** - DCSEAC attendance at every meeting
5. **Social Media** - Creation of Facebook page, increased engagement



# What are we doing ... 2022-2023

1. **Suggestion Box** - A DCSEAC tool for gathering ideas around Special Education  
[Flyer](#)
2. **Teacher & Staff Appreciation Events** - Funded by DCSEAC board members, have requested additional funding through Developmental Pathways.
3. **Artist Spotlight** - DCSEAC has requested teachers to submit art pieces from our IEP students. Artwork featured on our website and social media. [Artist Spotlight Flyer](#)
4. **Meet The Coordinators** - DCSEAC will film 30-second interviews with all our Special Education Coordinators and share via social media. (upcoming)
5. **Did You Know: Special Education Edition** - 30-second videos sharing information, tips, and news about DCSD Special Education. (upcoming)
6. **Center-based Programing Table Talks** - ongoing collaboration (upcoming)





# DCSEAC and DCSD: Collaboration and Teamwork

DCSEAC has voting membership on **Equity Committee**

DCSEAC **meets bi-monthly** with Leadership

DCSEAC **regularly communicates** with Special Education Leader projects and initiatives that are currently active.

DCSEAC has representation at each **Special Education Parent Engagement Session**.

At the Sept. 7th DCSEAC/DCSD meeting, DCSEAC's advisory request included expanding the continuum of center-based program in DCSD. Current progress and work continues around this initiative.

