

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Board Advisory Committee

Special Education Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2025, District Office High Plains Room

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Amy Beau, Kendall Burr, Amy Cady, Allison Confer, April Eagan, Hannah Dickerson, Lauren Gore, Michelle Henry, Ashleigh Hipp, Heather Jenkins, Jamie Katz, Michele Kelly, Kristen Leaming, Hope Lind, Mari McGraw, Jim McMullen, Katie Meierhenry, Shannon Mills, Jennifer Nowak, Cris Payne, Jennie Perdieu, Mark Schmidt, Erika Sheets, Susan Taylor, Megan Thompson, Lora Walker, Kathy Weldon (clerk)

WELCOME – AMIE BYBEE AND JEN CRABLE

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE – JIM MCMULLEN

- Update on the search process.
- Introduction and overview of Dr. Gillian Chapman as the incoming superintendent.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES – DR. MARK SCHMIDT

- Shared impact of the immediate end of the COVID-related Education Stabilization Fund liquidation period.
- Requirement for new Structured Literacy training for general and special education teachers.
- Recap of the 2025 Kansas Legislative session:
- \$10 million increase in Special Education funding.
- Cut in funding for FY26 in PD and mentoring programs.
- New allocations mandated within KSDE's budget (e.g., VR career exploration, AEDs, etc.).
- All signed into law by Governor Kelly.

DISTRICT UPDATES – DR. MARK SCHMIDT & JENNIE PERDIEU

Center-Based Classrooms (New for 2025–26):

- AGE – NAV
- SRE – Intensive Resource
- HMS – LIFT
- BVW – LIFT (4th classroom, pending 2026–27 move)

Transition Planning – Jennie Perdieu

- Early Childhood to Elementary:
 - Starts in October, ends in May.
 - High collaboration and family touch points throughout the year.
- Elementary to Middle School:
 - Involves case managers, specialized transition plans, observations, and family meetings.
- Middle to High School:
 - Early discussions, teacher collaboration, IEP support, school visits.
- High School to 18–21 Program:
 - Meetings begin during senior IEPs.
 - Site visits, job placement planning, CLEAR class scheduling.

OPEN FORUM

- Opportunity for parents and attendees to share feedback and ask questions.
- Discussions included transition best practices and future community resources.

SEAC COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Special Needs Resource Fair – Heather Jenkins
 - Recap and feedback from the Resource Fair event.
- Ability Showcase – April Eagan
 - April 28, 2025, 7:00 pm at Blue Valley High

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, District Office High Plains Room

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.



Special Education Advisory Council

April 15, 2025



Superintendent Search - Update

Welcome

Dr. Gillian Chapman



Legislative Update

- Education Stabilization Fund (COVID funds): KSDE was informed by Education Secretary Linda McMahon that the USDE was ending the liquidation period immediately. This did not directly affect BV, but will impact a new requirement for professional learning for all Elementary general education and special education teachers for intensive training in Structured Literacy.
- KSDE had previously had been approved for an extension to spend these funds. They are appealing the decision.



Legislative Update

2025 Legislative Session was adjourned on March 27, 2025. The Veto Session is scheduled for April 10th - 12th.

SB 125/Senate Sub for Sub for HB 2007:

- Funding Schools in compliance with the Gannon Agreement (increased at rate of inflation).
- Adding \$10 million for special education (\$603.5 million from \$593.5 million) or 1.6% increase
- Eliminate FY26 funding for professional development, the mentor teacher program, computer science advancement grants, and teacher excellence.
- Require KSDE to spend \$4,320,000 from existing KSDE budget for online supplementary American History curriculum, E-Rate match, grants for AEDs, and a virtual reality career exploration program.

Signed into law by Gov. Kelly

District Updates

New Center-Based Classrooms

- AGE - NAV
- SRE - Intensive Resource
- HMS - LIFT
- BVW - LIFT (4th) - Pending a move in 2026-27

Transition Planning:

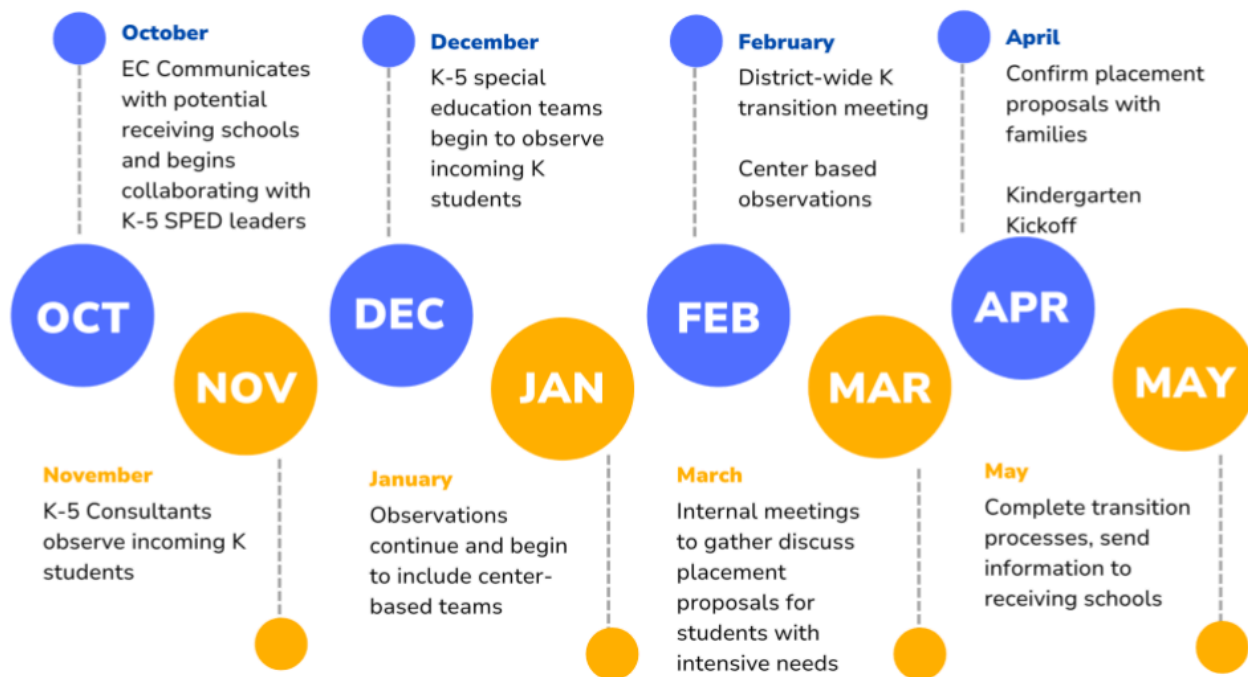
- Early Childhood to Elementary
- Elementary to Middle School
- Middle School to High School
- High School to 18-21



Transition: Early Childhood to Elementary

- Begin the process in October with thoughtful steps all school year until May.
- High level of collaboration between early childhood teams and elementary teams
- Thoughtful consideration of needed supports including center based considerations
- Family touch points at Fall conferences, Spring conferences, Annual Reviews and transition meetings (at minimum)





Transition: Elementary to Middle School

- Program to Program Process
 - Involving the receiving IEP team during their annual IEP to collaborate on the development of the IEP (i.e. goals, services, accommodations) or during an amendment towards the end of the school year
 - Transition Meetings during March 14th professional learning session between case managers to share instructional information and transition planning
 - Student Field Trips/Visits to the middle school (with specialized visits for some)
 - Receiving team may come observe or meet students
 - Specialized Transition Plans or Trainings when needed
 - Parent Communication and Information Nights
 - Family Transition Meetings



Continued: Elementary to Middle School

- Placement Review Process
 - Thoughtful consideration of needed supports including center based considerations
 - Elementary and Middle School Consultant observations and review of data
 - Middle School Team observations and review of data
 - Internal meeting to review data and IEP, observations, and discuss considerations for students with more intensive needs
 - Placement proposal presented to families
 - High level of collaboration between the teams to develop an IEP amendment and transition plan



Transition: Middle School to High School

- Start discussing students in the fall.
- Schedule Transition time for Teachers grade level to grade level
- Attend IEP meetings
- Assist with writing the goals and determining service minutes
- Observations of students
- Plan times for students to visit the new school.



Transition: High School to 18-21

- High school case manager invites the 18-21 program transition specialist to the senior year IEP to discuss programming.
- 18-21 Program open house in February.
- Transition Meetings between case managers during March professional learning session, to share instructional information and transition planning
- High school students visit 18-21 with their transition specialist/case manager in April
- 18-21 team member may come observe students at their high school
- Specialized Transition Plans or Trainings when needed
- 18-21 Team member will collaborate with parents before the end of senior year to establish job placement or CLEAR class scheduling.



Transitions: Advice for Parents

(Things that have made transitions work better)

Helping children with disabilities transition between school levels—elementary to middle and middle to high school—requires a proactive, supportive approach that balances emotional, academic, and social needs. Here's a guide for parents to support their child through each of these transitions:



Transition Advice

- **Understand Structural Changes:**
 - Talk about switching teachers and classrooms.
 - Use visual schedules or planners to practice managing multiple subjects.
- **Teach Organization Skills:**
 - Help develop systems for homework, folders, and lockers.
 - Practice using a planner or agenda.
- **Communicate with Staff:**
 - Meet with the IEP/504 team at the middle school.
 - Ask about resource/support rooms, case managers, and social-emotional supports.
 - Assume positive intent from the new team.
- **Promote Social Skills:**
 - Encourage involvement in clubs or lunch groups to reduce social isolation.
 - Practice conversation starters and how to ask for help.
- **Support increased Student Independence**

Committee Updates

Resource Fair Review

Heather Jenkins



Ability Showcase

Monday, April 28
7:00 pm
Blue Valley High School





OPEN FORUM



SEAC Membership 2025-26



- Congratulations to Graduating Parents



- Survey for participation next year



Thank you!

Next Meeting: September 16, 2025

