

Louisiana Special School District



Special Education Advisory Council

August 24, 2021
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of March 23, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- III. Review of Special Education Advisory Council Purpose
- IV. Review of Act 468 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session
- V. Update on Strategic Plan
- VI. Update on Academic Plan
- VII. Update on Special Education Advisory Council Appointments
- VIII. Next Meeting Date
- IX. Adjourn



Review of Special Education Advisory Council Purpose

Louisiana Revised Statute 17:1994.1

- The special education advisory council shall 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.



Review of Act 468

- Makes the SSD an independent state agency under the oversight of a twelve-member Board of Directors
- Provides for the responsibilities of the Board of Directors
- Provides for inclusion in the Minimal Foundation Program (MFP)



Update on Strategic Plan

Superintendent Ernest E. Garrett, III
Louisiana Special School District



Priority 1 - Early Childhood Special Education

- Expand Early Childhood Care and Education on the LSDVI campus to implement and bolster early intervention learning and services for scholars ages Birth-4.
- Expand resources, services, and engagement activities for families through outreach services.



Priority 2 - Literacy

- All scholars will achieve literacy standards recognized by the LDOE to enable better academic success.
- Use the comprehensive literacy assessment plan to inform instructional planning throughout the instructional cycle.
- Implement high-quality instruction in the foundation of ready, language, and literacy with appropriate differentiation and research-based intervention supports.
- Ensure all teachers have the knowledge for supporting literacy development, appropriate for students' exceptionalities and language acquisition



Priority 3 - College and Career Readiness

- Scholars successfully begin meaningful careers or post-secondary education after completing school and internship experiences.
- Increase the number of scholars earning statewide credentials.
- Improve successful transition of scholars into post-secondary enrollment or workforce.
- Provide meaningful internships and job shadowing experiences.
- Provide support for implementation of Workforce Development Programming for Deaf, HOH, blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind

Establish pathways to develop qualified professionals providing critical service needs for individuals who are Deaf, HOH, blind, visually impaired, or DeafBlind.



Priority 4 - DeafBlind Center

- Establish the Louisiana DeafBlind Center, an educational center designed and solely committed to the education of DeafBlind scholars.



Priority 5 - Accessibility of Integrated Learning Materials

- Implement a process that establishes the accessibility of integrated learning materials of each student to best support their scholarly growth while utilizing full offerings of state programs.
- Establish and implement an Accessibility Growth Plan grounded in data that addresses the accessibility needs of scholars, policies, procedures, and professional development.
- Ensure scholars with language delays or challenges have access to appropriate accessible curriculum supports and technologies.
- Solidify presence as a statewide network of shared resources and expertise statewide.



Priority 6 - Social Emotional Development and Scholar Independence

- Establish a comprehensive program utilizing SEL techniques to develop student independence and the skills necessary for successful transition to working life and living self-sufficiently.
- Establish a collective vision and plan for SEL integration and ensure aligned resources and ongoing commitment.
- Establish a comprehensive program of shared goals between SSD schools and dorms of student independence and the creation of skills for successful transition self-sufficient living.



Priority 7 - Math and STEAM

- Refine capability to assess scholar deficits/gaps in math and adopt a complete program of math instructor preparation and development.
- Implement a comprehensive assessment system that determines and measures foundational gaps or deficits in functional numeracy, operational, and application skills. This will include tools to identify these foundational measures and a progress monitoring function that utilizes assessments aligned to state standards.
- Ensure math instructors are optimally prepared and properly resourced to implement high-quality instruction in numeracy, operational, and application concepts with appropriate differentiation and research-based intervention supports.



Priority 7 - Math and STEAM

- Develop and incorporate a comprehensive PreK-12 STEAM leaning component into existing SSD curricula.
- Establish a districtwide staff understanding of STEAM as an approach to learning using Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue, and critical thinking.
- Incorporate STEAM leaning component into the current PreK-12 curricula.



Priority 8 - Talent Recruitment and Retention

- Ensure the SSD is fully staffed with well qualified professionals committed to the mission.
- Develop and adopt a complete staff recruitment plan.



Priority 9 - Organizational and Operational Redesign

- Develop and adopt organizational and operational redesigns that facilitate improved performance of the District, its schools, and its programs.
- SSD is organized to facilitate operational decision-making at the District level and instruction at the school level.
- SSD will develop and deploy a comprehensive operational manual that includes SSD's operational policies and standard operating procedures.

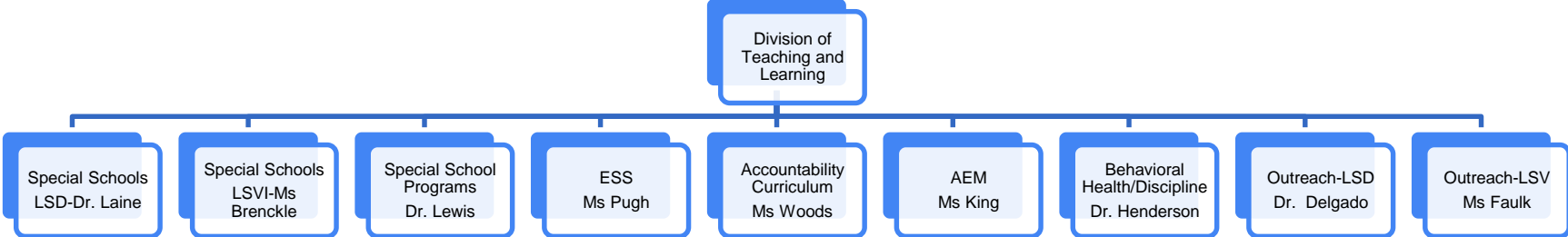


Update on Academic Plan

Marie Smith, Ph.D., NCC, LPC-S
Deputy Superintendent
Division of Teaching and Learning



Division Leaders



Operational Themes for the Division

Aligned Curriculum with Flexible Instructional Delivery

Objective 1: Create and implement an inclusive, equitable, and comprehensive PK-12+ curriculum aligned to LA Student Standards (LSS).

Objective 2: Create district-wide aligned instructional frameworks to implement data-informed, flexible instructional practices.



Operational Themes for the Division

Post-graduation Guidance and Preparation

Objective 1: Increase stakeholder awareness of all post-graduate opportunities.

Objective 2: Enhance and increase sustainable, quality educational pathway opportunities for all students.



Operational Themes for the Division

Health, Safety, and Social-emotional Supports for Students

Objective 1: Enhance physical and psychological safety and security for students and staff.

Objective 2: Increase physical, social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health competency through prevention and intervention efforts.



Objective 3: Establish an inclusive culture to ensure all students feel safe and valued.

Operational Themes for the Division

Recruitment, Retention, and Development of High-quality Employees

Objective 1: Support the Office of HR with identifying high-quality candidates.

Objective 2: Promote a culture of learning and development for all employees by providing opportunities and pathways for growth and advancement.



Focusing on the First 100 Days

Purpose

Our actions in the first 3 months form the foundation upon which all future work rests.

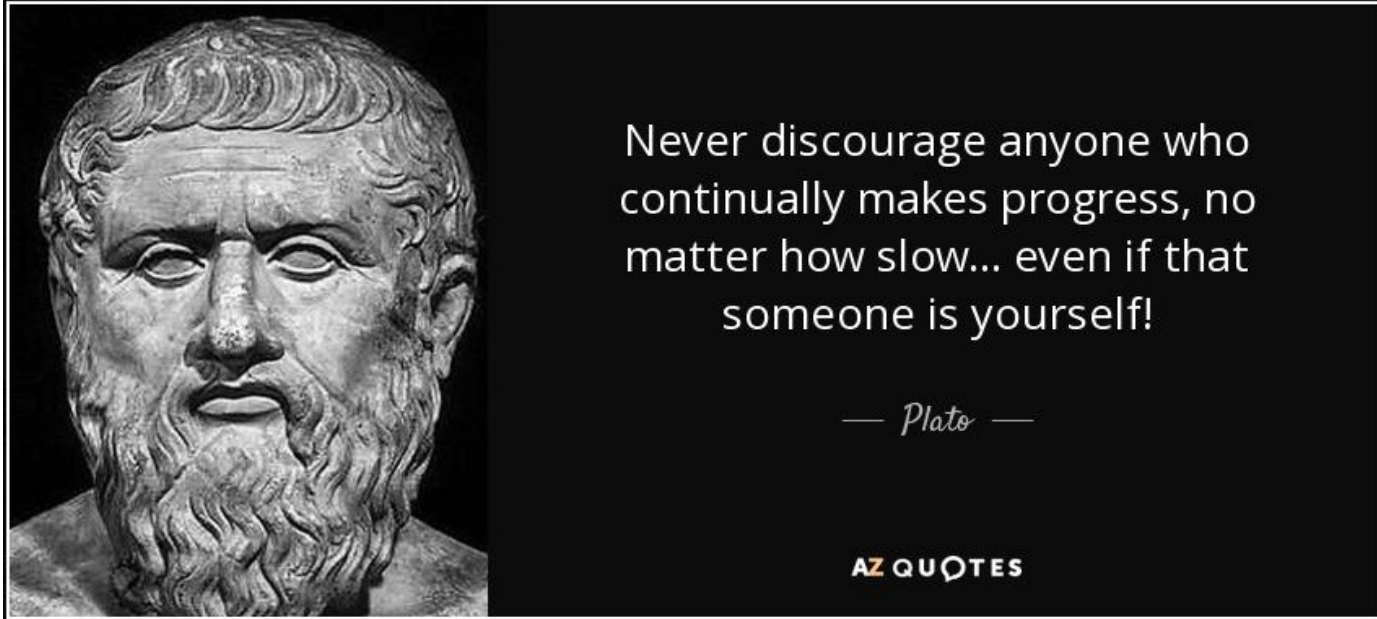
A solid foundation promotes future accomplishments.

A weak foundation derails progress.



November 10, 2021

Final Thoughts



SEAC Appointments

Superintendent Ernest E. Garrett, III
Louisiana Special School District



Superintendent Appointments

Timeframe:

- In November, requests for applications will be posted online and emailed to parents, staff, and stakeholders.
- Superintendent will appoint members for 2022.



Next Meeting Date

