

Office of Special Services & Inclusive Education
State Advisory Panel Minutes
2/14/24

In Attendance: Carrie Woodcock, Tracy Whitlock, Michael Dixon (public), Amelia Lyons, Susan Hogan, Courtney Angelosante, Jim Roberts, Connor Archer, Erin Frazier, Holly Day, Colette Sullivan, Page Nichols (guest speaker – Maine DOE BARR lead)

Public Comment

- Curiosity around how legislation will work when SAUs take over FAPE for preschoolers. Advocated for pre K to be available to all students.
- MPF put out flyer about annual conference after polling families. Conference is scheduled for Monday March 25th trying to do school based hours 9-2:30. Betsy Hopkins from DHHS is the keynote on the life span waiver. <https://www.mpf.org/2024-annual-conference/>

Updates

Department updates

- Working on CDS report – the law library put together a CDS annual report list over the past 10 years and Erin has reviewed the information and data
 - Outlining that CDS is not a staff issue but is a structure issue. The annual CDS report will be shared with the legislature tomorrow.
 - Commissioner Makin’s plan for CDS will be over three years for SAUs to take responsibility for 3-5 year old FAPE starting this fall for some voluntarily. Those who volunteer are offered fiscal compensation. Second year potentially shifting estimating a third of the state and then third year all.
 - There will be a new funding formula for Part-B 619 for local SAU's to take on the FAPE responsibilities for 3-5-year-olds with IEPs
 - There will be legislation and work sessions related to the plan.
 - Leadership team training will be offered over the summer for SAUs by national 619 speaker
 - Certification can be a barrier to preschool programming, and this has been discussed with the state board. Pre-K - 12 Special Education certification is being considered.
- Second session of Maine Care Bootcamp on Friday February 16th
<https://forms.office.com/g/Ts4wBi4Aad>
- OSEP is monitoring every state and it is Maine’s turn in the fall – September 23rd.

BARR overview – Page Nichols Maine DOE Chief Innovation Officer

<https://barrcenter.org/about-barr/barr-model/>

- MTSS model. Currently supporting 71 schools. Contract started in July.

- Model that uses relationship and data to drive academic and social/emotional health in schools. Use structure that focused on tier 1 and making sure every student is talked about in block meetings at least once throughout the year. Helps focus on all students.
- Block meetings are small block, big block, and community connect- 3 tiers.
- Small block is a smaller group of teachers, big block can include admins, counseling, etc.) and community can be school resource officers, families, etc.) Allows a better understanding of students. Try to make sure the focus is on something nonacademic.
- Also helps dig into why a student may be struggling in certain areas during the block meetings. Allows group to support students.
- Hearing from schools that this is showing results even for 1st year schools using BARR.
- 10 educators were selected to present at national conference in April. Working with governors' association to tell the BARR story and elevate it on a national level.
- PBIS team will be collaborating with the Maine BARR team and continue work with the Maine School Safety Center.
- Working with DHHS to identify supports that exist outside of education.

Public Comment

- Carrie shared the Early childhood consultation partnership (ECCP) out of OCFS <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/ocfs/support-for-families/child-care/early-childhood-consultation-partnership> - will work with the preschool and child care settings to keep students enrolled
- Carrie is working on LD 2166 with Rep Millet to develop a grant for programming for postsecondary opportunities for youth with ID, DD, and autism. Five awards to different IHEs - \$100,000 for start up and \$270,00 for student scholarships. The DOE, DHHS and DOL wrote a letter of support for the bill. The bill has been presented to the education and cultural affairs committee; a work session has not been scheduled yet. https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?LD=2166&snum=131. In MA they are coordinating with IHEs to have IDEA funds used for 18+ students. Following this model and the life span waiver, for 18-22 year old students, the SAUs would only have to address transportation costs.
- Amelia shared the Pilot Program to Prevent Student Homelessness - if families are struggling, can receive up to \$750/student towards rent, utilities, home repairs. Check in with your local liaison <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/safeschools/counseling/highmobility/homelessed/statepilot>