



Bureau of Special Education

Back-to-School Meeting

Connecticut State Department of Education | September 12, 2018

Special Education Youth Advisory Council

What is the Special Education Youth Advisory Council (SEYAC)?

The SEYAC is designed to increase student involvement in the special education process and to help students develop strong, effective leadership skills in order to make positive changes in their school and community.

What is the purpose of SEYAC?

- 1) Create a structure in which students with disabilities (middle and high school) can share their special education experiences and increase their capacity to make informed decisions regarding their educational programming;
- 2) Increase public awareness of the valuable role that student voice and increased student independence, can play in the lives of students, families, and communities; and
- 3) Inform the State Advisory Council for Special Education and the Special Education Bureau Chief on issues that are important to special education students.

Who are the members of the SEYAC?

SEYAC members include middle and high school students with disabilities throughout the State.

When and where does the SEYAC meet?

Council members meet three times. The first visit is a focus group, the second is a leadership training and the third is a youth summit. The focus group and leadership training take place on-site at each individual school and/or district that signs up. The youth summit, which brings all of the council members together, is at an off-site location.

How is SEYAC different from the Secondary Transition Youth Advisory Board (YAB)?

- SEYAC work focuses on special education experiences for students in middle and high school, the YAB work focuses on secondary transition and beyond.
- SEYAC is school/district based, the YAB students and youth can sign up individually.
- SEYAC holds two of the trainings on-site at the school/in district, and one conference off-site. School/district (students) commit to all three sessions.

How can I get involved?

Contact Nicole M. Vitale, SERC Consultant at vitale@ctserc.org or 860-632-1485, ext.234.