



Austin ISD Special Education Family Advisory Committee (SEFAC)

Minutes for September 9, 2026

Opening Statement: The Special Education Family Advisory Committee (SEFAC) met in person and virtually on September 9, 2026.

Meeting Details:

- **Meeting Date:** September 9, 2026
- **Meeting Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- **Meeting Location:** AISD Central Office (4000 S. I-H 35 Frontage Rd) and Virtual on Google Meets

SEFAC Members (Attendance)

Name	Member Type	Vertical Team	Attendance
Alasin DeVeney	ES SPED Teacher	Joslin ES	TRUE
Alisa Kerr	Parent/Educator	McCallum HS	TRUE
Beth Pasko	Co-Chair Parent	Akins HS	TRUE
Bree Rolfe	Family Engage Spec	District	TRUE
Dr. Cherry Lee	Asst Sup of SPED	District	TRUE
Elexa Martinez	Parent	Ann Richards	TRUE
Heather Merritt	Sec. Asst. Principal	Travis HS	TRUE
Jami Kirkland	Co-Chair MS SPED	Burnet MS	TRUE
Jenny Rosenberg	Parent	Ann Richards	TRUE
Jill Bracamonte	Parent/Educator	McCallum HS	TRUE
Julia Remington	RS Supervisor	District	TRUE
Kellie Marino	SPED Supervisor	District	TRUE
Lindsey Hammond	CS Coordinator	District	TRUE
Madeline Lasson	Life Skills Teacher	Rosedale SSC	TRUE
Mary Kay Tiernan	Parent	Anderson HS	TRUE
Molly Barker	Parent	Crockett ECHS	TRUE

Natalie Johnson	Parent	McCallum HS	TRUE
Nikki Hempe	Parent	Akins HS	FALSE
Randi Shade	Parent	Unique Vertical Team	FALSE
Ricardo Bentin	Parent	Bowie HS	FALSE
Samantha Greenleaf	ES Asst Principal	Pecan Springs ES	TRUE
Shelley Solka	SLP Supervisor	Austin HS	TRUE
Stephanie Wright	Life Skills Teacher	Rosedale SSC	TRUE
Tammy Thompson	Elementary Principal	Gullett ES	TRUE
Trasell Underwood	Parent	LBJ HS	TRUE

Meeting Agenda and Discussion

1. Call to Order, Attendance, Quorum

- **1.1. Call to Order:** Beth Pasko and Jami Kirkland called the committee to order at 6:03 PM.
- **1.2. Introductions:** Members present in person and virtually introduced themselves, sharing their roles and campus affiliations.
- **1.3. Approval of the Minutes:** The draft minutes from the April 21, 2026 meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Public Comments

- **2.1. Public Comment (Athena Rivers, 5/21/26):** Read into the record by Kellie Marino. The comment highlighted the critical lack of consistent, accessible out-of-school-time programs for adolescents with disabilities, pointing out that licensed childcare systems typically drop off around age 12. The absence of these supports severely impacts caregiver employment stability and the real-world success of transition planning.
- **2.2. Follow-up:** Molly Barker requested that the committee take special interest in this issue to explore solutions.

3. Membership Updates

- **3.1. Welcome New Members:** The committee officially welcomed new members.
- **3.2. SEFAC Member Contacts:** Kellie Marino provided a list of member contacts and noted that member emails are available for internal coordination.

4. Member Comments & Announcements

- **4.1. Transportation Hubs & Special Education Transportation (Beth Pasko):** Discussion on whether more students are needing/qualifying for SPED Transportation. Ali DeVeney noted that teachers are manually adding SPED transportation back in, which may affect costs and inclusion. Mary Kay Tiernan shared a student experience where transportation arrived an hour after school started due to route distance.
- **4.2. Parent Access in Google Classroom (Jami Kirkland):** Discussed parent community issues accessing Google Classroom. Tammy Thompson noted pushback on technology

use in elementary, and Mary Kay Tiernan noted teachers must invite parents.

- **4.3. TEA Intervention (Mary Kay Tiernan):** Raised awareness about the potential for TEA intervention in the district and urged mobilizing parents to have a voice in the process to protect inclusive practices.
- **4.4. Afterschool Care Accessibility (Alasin DeVeny & Others):** Built on the public comment regarding out-of-school care. Discussed barriers for SPED students in paid afterschool care (e.g., YMCA, Boys & Girls Club). Tammy Thompson explained the Facilitron booking system and facility space limitations. Dr. Cherry Lee suggested bringing in Dr. Brett Lee to discuss partnerships and exploring resources like Texas Post. Molly Barker inquired about adding SPED inclusion language to the RFP process for vendors. Heather Merritt noted the importance of getting secondary students on Medicaid waiver lists early due to 20-year waitlists.
- **4.5. Announcements:** A call for volunteers was made for the Transition Fair occurring on September 26th at Bowie High School. Bree Rolfe will send a sign-up link.

5. Work Session & Discussion

- **5.1. Family Engagement Survey Review:** The committee reviewed the 2025-26 Special Education Family Survey Results. Noted growth in most areas but discussed how to reach the remaining 2-3% and remove engagement barriers. The Research team is disaggregating the data for campuses, and members requested district-level reviews broken down by ES/MS/HS levels and intensity of services. Explored whether survey fatigue impacted response rates and discussed potentially implementing a feedback survey immediately following ARD meetings.
- **5.2. Topics for Focus this Year:** Suggested projects include following up on the public and member comments, the post-ARD family feedback survey or progress reports for teachers, and better preparing general education teachers to support SPED students.

6. Closure and Adjourn

- **6.1. Snack Sign-Up:** Volunteers committed to bringing snacks for future meetings (e.g., Molly Barker for October 14, 2026).
- **6.2. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.