



Austin ISD Special Education Family Advisory Committee (SEFAC)

Minutes for October 14, 2026

Opening Statement: The Special Education Family Advisory Committee (SEFAC) met in person and virtually on October 14, 2026.

Meeting Details:

- **Meeting Date:** October 14, 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	October 14, 2026
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 Engagement Spec	District	TRUE
Dr. Cherry Lee	Asst Sup of SPED	District	TRUE
Elexa Martinez	Parent	Ann Richards	FALSE
Heather Merritt	Sec. Assistant Principal	Travis HS	TRUE
Jami Kirkland	Co-Chair MS SPED	Burnet MS	TRUE
Jenny Rosenberg	Parent	Ann Richards	FALSE
Jill Bracamonte	Parent/Educator	McCallum HS	FALSE
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	FALSE
Nikki Hempe	Parent	Akins HS	FALSE
Ricardo Bentin	Parent	Bowie HS	FALSE
Samantha Greenleaf	ES Assistant Principal	Pecan Springs ES	FALSE
Stephanie Wright	Life Skills Teacher	Rosedale SSC	TRUE
Tammy Thompson	Elementary Principal	Gullett ES	TRUE
Trasell Underwood	Parent	LBJ HS	FALSE

Meeting Agenda and Discussion

1. Call to Order, Attendance, Quorum

- **1.1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM after reaching quorum.
- **1.2. Norms:** The committee reviewed norms to ensure a collaborative environment, the use of respectful language, and allowing members an opportunity to ask at least one question before going back to the same individual.
- **1.3. Approval of the Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the previous SEFAC meeting (September 9, 2026). The minutes were officially approved.

2. Public Comments

- **2.1. Public Comment:** It was noted that there were no public comments to be read into the record for this session.

3. Membership Updates

- **3.1. Welcome New Members:** The committee welcomed Lilliana Kendrick from the Academics Humanities department as a new visiting member.

4. SEFAC Member Comments & Announcements

- **4.1. Academic Baseline & Staffing for Inclusion:** A member inquired about the district's work on an academic baseline, specifically regarding how it addresses staffing for secondary inclusion classes. The Special Education department confirmed they are contributing a specialized section to the baseline document.
- **4.2. Ratios and Best Practices:** Discussion highlighted the difference between AISD best practices and legal mandates. It was emphasized that staffing must balance numbers with the intensity of services and individual student needs.

- **4.3. Co-Teaching Dynamics:** Members noted that successful co-teaching often relies on teacher personality and experience. To foster this district-wide, intentional planning during PLCs and structured coaching models are essential.
- **4.4. TA Support & Training:** Parents expressed concern over students with complex IEPs receiving inclusion support solely from Teacher Assistants (TAs) who might lack certification or IEP familiarity. The committee discussed the necessity for ongoing professional support, coaching models for TAs, and ensuring TAs are explicitly trained to support specific students.

5. Special Education Updates & Family Engagement Announcements

- **5.1. 2026-2027 Special Olympics Season:** It was announced that 55 campuses are participating in bowling practices. The program currently has 102 athlete registrations, 16 registered coaches and volunteers, and 34 campuses committed to being Unified Champion Schools.
- **5.2. Transition Fair Success:** The recent Transition Fair hosted over 150 attendees and 50 community vendors, featuring 5 expert sessions covering crucial topics like IEPs, Financial Planning, and Self-Advocacy.

6. Focus Group Discussions

- **6.1. Extracurricular and Afterschool Activities:** The formal discussion was pushed to the next meeting. The committee plans to invite Dr. Lee and Dr. Lewis to problem-solve and address public comments regarding respite and aftercare.
- **6.2. Transition Supports for Younger Students:** Noted that there might be more follow-up required in the future.
- **6.3. Family Experience Surveys:** This topic is held for discussion at the next meeting.

7. Work Session & Discussion

- **7.1. Supporting Strong Instruction & Student Growth:** The committee dedicated time to further unpack the inclusion conversation that originated from the earlier member comment session.

8. Closure and Adjourn

- **8.1. Adjournment:** The meeting was formally concluded and adjourned.