

**State Special Education Advisory Committee  
(SSEAC)**

**Doubletree Hotel Richmond Airport  
5501 Eubank Road,  
Sandston, Virginia**

**Thursday February 10, 2011**

<b>SSEAC Members</b>									
	<b>Present</b>		<b>Absent</b>			<b>Present</b>		<b>Absent</b>	
Eva Aikens			x		Mona Holmes	x			
Judy Averill			x		Lori Jackson				x
Mike Behrmann	x				Bernadette Jones				x
Mary Ann Discenza	x				Jackie Myal	x			
Christina Draper			x		Jacqueline Nelson				x
Fran Goforth	x				Jennifer O'Berry-Ham	x			
Melodie Henderson	x				Peter Squire	x			
Sandra Hermann	x				Tamara Temoney				x
Scott Kizner	x				Carletta Wilson				x
<b>Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff</b>									
Pat Abrams	x	Doug Cox	x	Lolita Hall	x	Phyllis Mondak			x
Cathy Pomfrey	x	Suzanne Creasey	x	Sandra Ruffin	x	Marianne Moore			x
Gloria Dalton	x	Anne Rowe	x	Bonnie English	x	Jason Ellis			x
Paul Raskopf	x	John Eisenberg	x	Jeff Phenicie	x	Angie Phenicie			x
<b>Guests</b>									
Carolyn Beckett	x	Melanie Sterling	x	Juanita Williams	x	Evelyn Rogers			x
Samantha Vanterpool	x	Pat Addison and Aspiring SPED Leaders	x	Barbara Fleming	x	Kara Russell			x
Laurella Williams	x	Sheila Carr	x	Kandy Moore	x	Jamie Wynberry			x
Beth Haw	x	Joan Brunner	x	Susan Carl	x	Brenda Reid			x
PTA-Kelly Greenwood	x	VAESP-Jim Baldwin	x	Katie Brooks	x	Tara Hollins			x

## **Call to Order**

Dr. Mike Behrmann, Chair, called the meeting to order. He asked everyone to introduce themselves. He welcomed members of the Special Education Aspiring Leaders Cohort 3. He also welcomed chairs and members of the local SEACs that were in attendance.

## **Business Session**

Dr. Behrmann noted that there was not a quorum.

### **1. Minutes**

As more members arrived, a quorum was established. The minutes were approved as amended; *Sandy Hermann requested that her constituency report be adjusted to read "oral."*

### **2. Annual Report**

Dr. Behrmann announced that the SSEAC Annual Report for 2009-2010 had been presented to the Virginia Board of Education (BOE) at its November 2010 meeting.

Dr. Behrmann asked that members consider issues to be included in the Annual Report for 2010-2011 in their Friday subcommittee meetings.

### **3. Follow-up to Public Comment from October 2010 meeting**

Dr. Suzanne Creasey reported that a letter had been sent in response to a public comment given at the October 2010 meeting from Katie Brooks, the mother of a child with Down syndrome. Ms. Brooks had commented on the needs of students in elementary school who do not meet VAAP criteria but cannot take SOLs. She supports accountability addressing foundation skills of reading, writing, basic math and daily life skills.

### **4. Subcommittee Assignments**

Dr. Behrmann reviewed the subcommittee matrix with members and asked that they let him know if anything needs to be changed.

### **5. Membership Update**

Dr. Behrman noted that the August 2010 meeting would be the last meeting for several members (Michael Behrmann, Peter Squire, Mary Ann Discenza, Jacqueline Nelson, and Tamara Temoney) as they each had completed two terms. Three additional members (Eva Aikins, Frances Goforth, and Jennifer O'Berry-Ham) would be eligible for reappointment for a second term. Also, the Region IV position is still vacant.

## **6. Future Meeting Schedule and Locations**

(Locations tentative)

- April 14-15, 2011 (Hilton Richmond Hotel-Short Pump)
- July 14-15, 2011 (Hilton Richmond Hotel-Short Pump)

Dr. Behrmann asked members to think about changing meeting dates to avoid problems with bad weather.

## **Presentations**

### ***State Education Information Management Systems and Use by School Divisions***

Mr. Jason Ellis - Test Administration, Scoring & Reporting

Mr. Ellis provided an overview of the functionality and data available in the Educational Information Management System (EIMS). The demonstration included data at the division, school, and student roster level, as well as individual student assessment history information. A review of the ASOL report for students completing VAAP assessments was also conducted. For further information, see the VDOE Web site:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info\\_management/eims/longitudinal\\_data\\_grant/index.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_management/eims/longitudinal_data_grant/index.shtml)

## **BREAK**

### ***Career and Technical Education Data***

Dr. Pat Abrams, Director Special Education Instructional Services

Dr. Sandra Ruffin, Director Federal Program Monitoring

Ms. Bonnie English, Monitoring Specialist for Special Education & Civil Rights Laws

Dr. Patricia Abrams presented information supplied by the VDOE Office of Career & Technical Education (CTE) addressing the number and incidence rate of students with disabilities enrolled in CTE courses and how students are accommodated on industry certification tests. The information was taken from the *Secondary Student Career Clusters Enrollment (SSCCER) Report 2009-2010, CTE Clusters by Disability 2009-2010, and the Special Education December 2009 Child Count.*

Dr Sandra Ruffin talked about monitoring and how we identify and eliminate barriers for Students with Disabilities in Virginia's Secondary Schools. The Virginia Department of Education is responsible for monitoring civil rights laws in the secondary schools. Dr. Ruffin introduced Ms. Bonnie English. Ms. English provided the background and reviewed the process for identifying and eliminating barriers to career and technical education for students with disabilities in Virginia's secondary schools.

Ms. Sandy Hermann requested that a copy of the following Power Point be sent to members: *Identifying and Eliminating Barriers to Career and Technical Education for Students with Disabilities in Virginia's Secondary Schools.* An inquiry was raised about the responsibility for monitoring this at the elementary level. It was suggested that this might be a potential area for the annual report.

Ms. Sandy Hermann suggested that systemic CTE accessibility concerns be included in the Annual Report with appropriate recommendations.

## **Break**

### ***State Performance Plan-Annual Report Update***

Mr. Paul Raskopf, Director, Financial and Data Services  
Special Education and Student Services, VDOE

Mr. Raskopf provided an update on the State Performance Plan and the Annual Performance Report data collection and reporting requirements. States are required by IDEA to submit a state performance plan and an annual performance report, structured by federal language. He reviewed a chart that was later modified as per a request from Dr. Mike Behrmann. (***PART B Annual Performance Report for 2009-2010 (due February 1, 2011)***)

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Ms. Beth Haw*, Chair of the Williamsburg SEAC, addressed the needs of local SEACS including a desire for training and support from the state.

*Ms. Tara Holland* from Spotsylvania talked about her concern regarding her daughter's upcoming graduation with a special diploma and her future after graduation. She stated that her LEA has inadequate transition plans and training.

## **Lunch**

### **Presentations Continued**

#### ***Standards-based Individualized Education Program***

Mr. Jeff Phenicie, Specialist, Jail Education, Assessment Resources

Mr. Jeff Phenicie provided an overview of the rollout training for the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Test (VMAST) and the Standards-based Individualized Education Program (SB-IEP). The presentation included a brief overview of the statewide training, available resources, and next steps.

Ms. Sandy Hermann asked for further discussion on how to incorporate functional skills into an academic curriculum.

#### ***Early Childhood Special Education – Special Quest Project***

Ms. Phyllis Mondak, Specialist, Early Childhood

Ms. Mondak reported that Virginia had a grant and the work is continuing on disseminating information and materials on the process of building community partnerships that support having children with disabilities in community inclusive settings. All regions of the state have teams that

facilitate the use of these materials and train localities to train others on the process. Information about the materials and project can be found at: <http://specialquest.org/>

Materials library – early childhood and preschool - <http://76.249.171.46/specialquest/trainingmaterials/>  
 Very high quality materials developed from everyone’s (parent, special education, Head Start, community child care settings) perspective. Look at the IEP videos in the preschool series.

<b>Constituency Reports</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Report</b>
Eva Aikens	Absent
Judy Averill	Absent
Mike Behrmann	Oral
Mary Ann Discenza	No Report
Christina Draper	Absent
Fran Goforth	<p>The local directors of special education would like to thank the Virginia Department of Education for providing “Special Education Connections” that was provided to all LEAs. It was also suggested by several directors that VDOE provide a list of when all reports are due so that they are aware of timelines for all required reports.</p> <p>Continued concern exists about the changes in CSA funding and the different interpretations provided by the Office of Comprehensive Services and the Virginia Department of Education.</p> <p>The 2011 Spring VCASE meeting will be held in Virginia Beach on May 25th, 26th and 27th.</p>
Melodie Henderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Virginia Education Association’s IDEA Cadre provides training in three modules: The Puzzle of Autism, Response to Intervention and the Road to Success (an overview of special education laws and policies). These training modules are available to LEA’s/schools for a nominal fee.</li> <li>• To better equip educators who are members of VEA, it has been recommended that the VEA SPED Cadre provide module training at VEA’s next scheduled Instructional Conference as well as there being a recommendation that the VEA SPED committee provide/organize training for educators in effective test-taking skills/study skills at the same conference.</li> </ul>
Sandra Hermann	Oral
Mona Holmes	<p>I still face many challenges with connecting with all local SEAC's due to the size of Region 5 and the geographic fact that a mountain range separates us. But I am proud to report that the SEACs from Greene, Louisa, Albemarle, Madison, Fluvanna Counties and Albemarle City schools systems joined with the Parent Resource Center in Charlottesville for the 3rd Annual Live and Learn Parent Conference and Resource Fair on Saturday, November 13, 2010 at Ivy Creek School, 227 Lambs Lane, Charlottesville. This year’s conference included several of the most popular sessions from last year, and several new topics of interest to families of students with special needs. There was a resource fair with 40 + local agencies and network with parents over lunch at the end of the conference day. The conference was free and childcare was provided.</p> <p>Session topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family Dynamics</li> </ul>

## Constituency Reports

Name	Report
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensory Strategies</li> <li>• Medicaid Waivers and SSI</li> <li>• Interpreting Educational Assessments</li> <li>• Bullying Prevention</li> <li>• Writing Successful IEPs</li> <li>• Assistive Technology Assessment and Communication Tools</li> <li>• Visual Strategies</li> <li>• Social Skills</li> <li>• Inclusion</li> </ul> <p>Many SEAC's are focusing on SOL's and summer learning opportunities for students with disabilities.</p> <p>On April 15th, Fluvanna County SEAC is partnering with the local elementary school PTO/PTA's to host the "H.I.P." parent conference. "H.I.P." stands for Highly Involved Parents. It will be a takeoff on Parent Universities. We are providing a free dinner, entertainment and child care. After dinner, parents will have the opportunity to attend a grade level sessions for SOL help, summer learning strategies, and transition tips, etc. These sessions will be all inclusive. Each session will have a licensed teacher and resources teacher so all will be able to have their concerns met and questions answered. There will also be a resource/vendor fair for all to attend. To encourage participation, we are having drawings for some awesome prizes (iPod, digital camera, gift cards, etc.). What is most exciting to me is that this is a collaborative effort for all students and we have the support of teachers, administration, community agencies/businesses, churches, and parents. This is our first attempt at such a big project. We are hoping for a good weather so our turnout will be amazing.</p>
Lori Jackson	Absent
Bernadette Jones	Absent
Scott Kizner	Absent
Jackie Fagan Myal	Oral
Jacqueline Nelson	Absent
Jennifer O'Berry Ham	VAISEF has revised accreditation standards and has begun to accredit schools using those standards. The curriculum and instruction piece is much more rigorous and more specifically aligned with VDOE standards. Additionally, VAISEF has begun Medical Administration Training for Youth (MATY) – 16 hour curriculum for medication administration – approved by VA Board of Nursing. This training is moving slowly as there are low numbers of trained professionals to provide the training. Because medical administration training is no longer provided by VDOE, and these trainings fill up quickly, private schools are concerned about meeting this requirement.
Peter Squire	No report
Tamara Temoney	Absent
Carletta Wilson	Absent
(PEATC) Carolyn Beckett Information Specialist	(see final pages of this document)

## ***Assistant Superintendent Report***

Mr. Doug Cox

Mr. Doug Cox addressed several topics including:

### *General Assembly Bills*

- HB 1435 (Bell)
  - Requires ASL to count as other foreign language and to be counted for graduation credit
- HB 1617 (Ward)
  - Conveys certain VSDBM-H property to an organization
- HB 1720 (Massie)
  - Adds requirements for teachers and paraprofessionals who work with children with autism:
    - Teachers: demonstrate proficiency in behavior management
    - paraprofessionals: 80 hours in behavior management within 60 days of employment
- SB 1269 (Houck)
  - Autism Advisory Council

### *Private School Regulations*

- Submitted to BOE for first review at its January meeting
- Now in APA process; will have public comment period and public hearing
- Replaces the CORE regulations which were eliminated by the General Assembly in 2009

### *Standards-based IEPs/VMAST training*

- Workshops held around the state; extremely positive response
- Standards-based IEP guidance document is now posted on VDOEs Web site

### *One percent cap on VAAP*

- Superintendent's memo posted January 28, 2011
- Two reasons: small "n" or anomaly in distribution of students with disabilities in overall school population
- John Eisenberg is responsible

### *Guidance from OSEP: RtI cannot delay eligibility determination*

We are working on a guidance document about how "stay-put" applies to situations where there is a disagreement between families and schools concerning participation in the VGLA

ODRAS is working on a reformatted version of the Regulations that will reduce the size of the document.

Proceedings of the ED Summit are now available.

A Task Force to look at the issues concerning how to better service students with mild intellectual disabilities is being appointed. We are planning a first meeting in May. We should have more to report at the April SSEAC meeting.

He showed a video – CLC – overview of some of work we’ve done in pilot High Schools.

Mr. Cox requested that Mr. John Eisenberg update members on the Autism Center for Excellence.

***Autism Center for Excellence***

Mr. John Eisenberg, the Director of the Office of Instructional Support and Related Services

Mr. Eisenberg provided members of the SSEAC with a brief update on the progress made implementing key strategic activities and long range goals for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He provided updates on new child count data as well as outlined the activities of the new Autism Center of Excellence including the. Autism Diagnostic and Observation Schedule (ADOS) training.

***Aspiring Special Education Leaders Academy***

Dr. Pat Addison

Dr. Pat Addison provided an overview of the Aspiring Special Education Leaders Academy. She told members that academy candidates are nominated by Division Superintendents and Special Education Directors or a supervisor of state-operated program. Final selections are made by a steering committee. The program is now in its third year. Each cohort has contained representatives of all eight superintendent’s region and state operated programs. Several groups of this year’s cohort gave presentations to the SSEAC.

**Friday, February 11, 2011**

<b>SSEAC Members</b>					
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Eva Aikens		x	Lori Jackson		x
Judy Averill	x		Bernadette Jones		x
Mike Behrmann	x		Jackie Myal	x	
Mary Ann Discenza	x		Jacqueline Nelson		x
Christina Draper		x	Jennifer O'Berry-Ham	x	
Fran Goforth	x		Peter Squire	x	
Melodie Henderson	x		Tamara Temoney		x
Sandra Hermann	x		Carletta Wilson		x
Mona Holmes	x				

<b>Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Staff</b>							
Pat Abrams	x	Suzanne Creasey	x	Susan Trulove	x	Gloria Dalton	x
Cathy Pomfrey	x	John Eisenberg	x	Tara McDaniel	x	Doug Cox	x
<b>Guests</b>							
Carolyn Beckett	x	Melanie Sterling	x	Juanita Williams	x	Evelyn Rogers	x
Samantha Vanterpool	x	Tara Hollins	x	Barbara Fleming	x	Kara Russell	x
Laurella Williams	x	Sheila Carr	x	Kandy Moore	x	Jamie Wynberry	x
Beth Haw	x	Joan Brunner	x	Susan Carl	x	Brenda Reid	x
PTA-Kelly Greenwood	x	Katie Brooks	x				

**Call to Order**

Dr. Mike Behrmann called the meeting to order.

**Ad Hoc Subcommittees Met**

Dr. Mike Behrmann asked subcommittees to meet. It was noted that Ms. Sandy Hermann was the only member of the Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee present.

## **Ad Hoc Subcommittee's Reports**

Ad hoc subcommittees reported on meeting discussions.

### ***Personnel Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Ms. Jennifer O'Berry-Ham reported.

Discussion centered on SLP shortages in Virginia

- 12 individuals in Virginia with provisional licenses
- 2201 with full licenses
- 20 postings of vacancies for SLPs
- There are incentives available to SLPs
- Ms. Tara McDaniel shared handouts of guidance documents for use in recruiting SLPs
- Ms. Melodie Henderson brought up VEA commitment to restore SLPs to state SOQs
- JMU is currently providing telepractice sessions in areas like Wise County in order to bridge the gap in SLP shortage.
- VMAST/Standards Based IEPs training for higher education is tentatively set for March 29.
- Discussed ongoing grants and tuition assistance for teachers with provisional licensing
- VCU received grant to work with two community colleges on programming focused on ID. This is similar to programs currently being offered at GMU.

### ***Constituency Involvement Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Ms. Sandy Hermann reported.

- Dr. Suzanne Creasey is the new liaison for local SEACs
- Regions 6 and 7 will be invited to the April 2011 meeting
- Dr. Creasey will work with special education directors to obtain updated listings of SEAC chairs.

Ms. Sandy Hermann moved that constituency committee work with the parent representatives. Ms. Mona Holmes seconded; the motion passed

### ***RtI Ad Hoc Subcommittee***

Dr. Peter Squire reported.

The first RtI cohort/pilot training session was Dec. 15-16 in Roanoke. The next training session is in Charlottesville March 1-2. The final training for this school year will be in June in Blacksburg. Committee members were invited to attend the remaining two sessions.

RtI pilot divisions continue to work with coaches. The plan is to transition the coaches from working with the pilots to working with the new cohort divisions at the end of the school year.

Interactive, Inc., the evaluator for the RtI initiative, will provide an update at the July SSEAC meeting. The data questions from Peter Squire will be addressed at that time.

### **Public Comment Review from Thursday AM**

Beth Haw-Williamsburg commented on problems accessing information, etc.; the most relevant thing was a recommendation for the SSEAC to look at addressing local SEAC issues; to look systematically at what's happening.

Ms. Tara Holland from Spotsylvania with 17 year old child talked about the effects of a special diploma and how services will be provided after graduation; also, how to access resources; training and transition services before and after graduation and decide how to provide support.

### **SSEAC Member Comments**

Dr. Mike Behrmann raised the issue of having a meeting quorum and discussed the history and problems meeting a quorum. Mr. Doug Cox noted that the BOE bylaws do not require a quorum. There are membership requirements but operating procedures are left to each state. It was decided to leave the quorum as is after some discussion.

There was discussion regarding meeting attendance. Ms. Sandy Hermann moved that a tracking sheet with meeting attendance be included as part of the minutes. The motion was approved.

Mr. Cox stated that he will begin the recruitment process for new members. The membership list was reviewed, noting the upcoming vacancies. Mr. Cox stated that he would try to have names at the July meeting.

### ***Region 2 and 3 Focus Group Report (VCU-PPD)***

The request was made by local SEACs to post PowerPoint's, handouts, etc. on the Web page with meeting minutes.

Regions 2 and 3 gave focus group reports.

#### Local SEACS successes

1. Increased membership; committed core group of participants.
2. Developed newsletter for parents
3. Updated website with resources for parents, teachers and community members
4. Created a membership binder.
5. Created a mission statement and goals for the year and five years.
6. Established committees to work on global issues
7. Participation in community forums
8. Set up a "Circle of Friends" fundraising event

#### Local SEACs challenges

1. Working with administration; clarity of roles
2. Lack of participation/membership (parents and agencies)
3. Need for disability awareness; meeting needs of all disabilities
4. Building working relationships (list of contact information/roles)
5. Lack of public awareness of SEAC

#### Ways SSEAC can support local SEACs

1. Improving communication among SSEAC and local SEAC chairpersons (before, during and after meetings; list serve/newsletter)
2. SSEAC review for information the local SEAC periodic reports (provide feedback/track problems)
3. SSEAC Members visit school and/or local SEAC meetings.
4. SSEAC regional reps. Mentor local SEACs

#### Services or products helpful to local SEACs

1. Training
2. Early accessible resources (e.g., DVDs, user friendly info. Contact info on SSEAC members, best practices)
3. Concise listing of existing products and resources
4. Regional discussion and networking groups

Dr. Behrmann reminded members of FOIA restrictions on meetings and related issues.

#### **Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

- RtI (July meeting)
- Post secondary students (GMU)
- Disability awareness information
- Cox – report on VMAST credit

- Concerns regarding standards-based IEPs
- Eisenberg-students using VAAP
- Gap with students with moderate disabilities
- Show Your Spark (April meeting)
- Update on self determination
- Discussion on constituency involvement
- Drug abuse/corrections
- Restraint and Seclusion
- NASDSE federal update

### **Future Meeting Dates**

- April 14-15, 2011
- July 14-15, 2011

### **Meeting Adjourned**

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### **Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee February 10-11, 2011**

**Carolyn Beckett, Information Specialist  
Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC)**

As Virginia's Parent Training and Information Center for families of children with disabilities, PEATC provides families and the professionals who work with them training and support regarding early intervention and special education systems. PEATC works to promote active partnerships between parents and professionals that lead to positive results for children.

### **PTI Highlights**

**Information and Assistance** –The PTI entered Year 2 of the grant in October and with the new year comes new benchmarks.

- Monthly minimum: 569
- Quarterly Minimum: 1,706
- Year 2 Minimum: 6,825

In our first quarter we have logged a total of 2,559 intakes.

Mid-way through the second quarter we are on track to meet our project goals with 607 intakes in January.

- **Alliance National PTAC Topical Institutes, Jan. 26-27, 2011, Crystal City, Virginia:** Irene Moore, PEATC PTI Information Coordinator, developed and presented a new PEATC workshop entitled "Are Your Behaviors Affecting the

Effectiveness of My Child's IEP?" to rave reviews. Her audience, comprised of Parent Training and Information Center leaders from across the country, gave top ratings to Moore's dynamic style in tackling the issue of developing effective IEPs for children with emotional disabilities. With humor and candor, Moore encouraged participants to reflect on adult tendencies to react to children's errors (red Kool-Aid on the rug) less gently than they respond to adults' missteps (red wine on the carpet.) Moore's examples underscored the importance of a child-focused orientation when creating a comprehensive IEP for ANY child. Participants expressed appreciation for Irene's refreshing perspectives. Several parent leaders indicated plans to incorporate Moore's training techniques into presentations in their home states.

- **New Training Offered in Region VI.** In response to a request from the Botetourt County Public Schools Special Education Coordinator after having downloaded PEATC's archived transition webinar, "Guardianship: Risks and Responsibilities" with Sue Swenson, PEATC developed and conducted a workshop entitled:  
**Guardianship, Age of Majority and Supported Decision- Making (Important Choices for Young Adults with Disabilities and their Families)**  
The workshop introduces the option of supported decision-making as a possibly desirable alternative to guardianship.
- **Social Media Pilot:** On Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, PEATC will release its first in a series of informational YouTube videos. Each 2-3 minute video provides a response to a question a parent has sent to the PEATC Forum this past fall using the free Google Moderator technology. All questions are answered in English and Spanish. The initial round of questions from parents included (1) postsecondary education opportunities, (2) equal access to the technology offered in general education classes, (3) behavior intervention plans, (4) LRE/neighborhood schools, and (5) evaluations during the final years of high school. PTI staff members are each stepping in front of the camera to answer questions. We will be tracking viewership using the Google tools. This is our first attempt at utilizing social media as a way to disseminate information to families. Our hope is that we can begin to transform PEATC fact sheets into short video clips that will help facilitate information more easily and provide linkages to more in depth information provided on the PEATC website.
- **PEATC IEP Webisode series:** Unfortunately, the PEATC webisode series explaining the IEP process by a youth with a disability to other youth has been discontinued. Our young video producer is too overwhelmed with his current

schooling to complete the project. The program will be removed from the PEATC website.

- **IEP Clinics:** PEATC is organizing a series of IEP clinics in the Northern VA office this spring. If these are well attended we will embed them in regular programming and entertain how to bring them to other partners across the state.
- **PEATC Presents: Topical Institutes “Getting Down to the Basics in Special Education”** in English and Spanish. The first will be Tazewell VA with outreach to all SW Counties of Virginia: PTI staff members are planning a day long special education training with Patti Cettin, Executive Director of **TASK** (Taking Action for Special Kids) in Tazewell, VA on April 7, 2011. The institute, designed for parents, educators and other service providers in the 15 counties of Region 7, will address PEATC’s concern that families do not know the basics of special education. In addition to a keynote address that will focus on behavioral challenges, topics will include (1) getting down to the basics of special education, (2) parents unique expertise and contributions to the process, and, (3) what to do when disagreements arise. This framework will be developed for Spanish speaking families in Northern Virginia and in the Richmond catchment area. We will be providing information to families about upcoming parental involvement surveys and post school outcomes surveys. More about the Spanish language institutes will be addressed below in the Outreach section of this report.
- **Anderson-Chitwood Educational Leadership Awards:** We will be presenting the first Anderson-Chitwood Educational Leadership Awards at each regional Topical Institute. The Anderson-Chitwood Educational Leadership Award is named for PEATC founders Winifred Anderson and Steve and Janet Chitwood. The award recognizes regional and local leaders who are making a difference in education for children and families through partnership and collaboration. This award is patterned after the partnership that evolved between Ms. Anderson and the Chitwoods who struggled to ensure young Danny Chitwood had an inclusive preschool education back in the late 1970s. This partnership led to the founding of PEATC.

## **PTI Trends**

**Phase out of VGLA:** The phase out of the Virginia Grade Level Alternate Assessment (VGLA) is requiring IEP teams to conduct a more rigorous assessment of students’ eligibility for participating in the testing. The

alternatives as reported to PEATC are for the child to take the SOL with the approved accommodations or be considered a student who is not at grade level. Parents are disagreeing with the finding, refusing to sign the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that contains the removal of the VGLA assessment automatically generating the "stay-put" IEP provision of IDEA.

**Access to the General Education Curriculum:** PEATC has received numerous calls from parents concerning the limited-to-non-existent accommodations and curriculum adjustments being provided to their children while they are spending a part of each school day in general education classes. Without the appropriate supplementary aids and services, program modifications and supports, special education students are experiencing little success in participating and making progress in the general education curriculum and this could be considered a denial of FAPE. Frequently, parents note insufficient collaboration between special and regular educators, teachers' lowered expectations of special education students and the resulting disregard of these students' presence in the classroom.

**Clarification of OSEP Memo:** PEATC staff members have assisted a number of families in understanding the recent OSEP memo which clarifies for parents and LEA's that a Response to Intervention (RtI) approach is not to supplant the need for referral to special education. The IDEA regulations allow a parent to make a request for an initial evaluation at any time to determine if their child is a child with a disability. The use of RtI strategies cannot be used to delay or deny the provision of a full and individual evaluation. Unfortunately, several LEA's throughout the state are denying SPED referral until the RtI interventions have been exhausted. RtI is a general education initiative designed to support students' learning and to ensure there is not an over identification or misidentification of students needing SPED services.

## Meeting Attendance

MEETING DATE	2/10	4/10	7/10	10/10	2/11	4/11	7/11	10/11												
THURSDAY/FRIDAY		T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F	T F
Eva Aikens					A A															
Judy Averill			A A		A															
Mike Behrmann																				
Mary Ann Discenza		A A			A															
Christina Draper					A A															
Fran Goforth																				
Melodie Henderson		A A																		
Sandra Hermannn																				
Scott Kizner																				
Mona Holmes			A A																	
Lori Jackson					A A															
Bernadette Jones		A A			A A	A A														
Jackie Myal																				
Jacqueline Nelson		A A		A	A	A A														
Jennifer O'Berry-Ham			A A																	
Peter Squire		A A	A A																	
Tamara Temoney		A A			A	A A														
Carletta Wilson		A A	A A	A A	A A	A A														

MEETING CANCELLED - SNOW