



## Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meetings

The focus of the Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee is to:

- Advise the School Board of needs in the education of children with disabilities.
- Participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of children with disabilities.
- Submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of children with disabilities to the Superintendent for transmission to the school board.
- Assist SPS in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of children with disabilities for educational services.
- Review the policies and procedures for the provision of special education and related services prior to submission to the School Board; and
- Participate in the review of the SPS annual plan, prior to submission to the School Board.

Please come out and join the Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee which meets every other month, **6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at Kings Fork Middle School** (March meeting will be virtual). Meetings are open to the public. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

**March 17, 2021 (virtual)**

**May 19, 2021**

**July 21, 2021**

**For more information, please contact:**

Chairperson, **Pamela Charles**, at [PCharles.seac@gmail.com](mailto:PCharles.seac@gmail.com)

Vice Chairperson, **Saul Godinez**, at [Godinezsl@verizon.net](mailto:Godinezsl@verizon.net)



SEAC needs new members for the 2021-2022 school year. For information on how you can help to improve Special Education in SPS, contact SEAC.



## Special Education Parent Resource Center (PRC)

The Parent Resource Center (PRC), funded by Special Education, provides resources, advice, and guidance to parents, grandparents, relatives, students, educators, and community members. Together, we help our children and youth develop and live full, productive, happy, independent lives to the maximum extent possible.

**Until March 15th**, the Special Education Parent Resource Center will be **available virtually**.

**After March 15th**, the PRC will be open from **Monday through Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**, with additional hours (appointments) upon request.

The new **PRC Liaison, Vivian Evett**, is the parent of a young adult with special needs who graduated from Suffolk Public Schools. Mrs. Evett has volunteered for the Suffolk Special Education Advisory Committee since 2001 and worked closely with SPS to improve Special Education services in the district. She has mentored struggling parents of children with special needs, helped to develop special education policies and procedures within the district, and attended considerable training from PEATC, VDOE, WrightsLaw, Rick Lavoie, and various other resources. If you need help navigating the Special Education maze, need access to resources, have questions about available services, or need help in resolving issues related to services, please contact Vivian Evett at the PRC.

The PRC is located in Booker T. Washington Elementary School at 204 Walnut Street in Suffolk. **For more information, please contact Vivian Evett at:**

(757) 925-5785 or [VivianEvett@spsk12.net](mailto:VivianEvett@spsk12.net).

## March 2021

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### Special points of inter- est:

- Next SEAC Meeting March 17th at 6:30 p.m. available virtually.
- Special Education PRC available virtually until March 15th.
- After March 15th, PRC hours will be Monday - Friday, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



## Upcoming Workshops/Training Opportunities

### Upcoming PRC Workshops



The Suffolk Special Education Parent Resource Center will be hosting workshops and training sessions to support students receiving services in special education and their families. These workshops will focus on topics such as:

- Understanding Special Education processes
- Developing effective Individual Education Programs (IEP)
- Creating successful plans to transition from high school
- Resolving issues in services

For more information on upcoming PRC workshops, please contact Vivian Evett at [VivianEvett@spsk12.net](mailto:VivianEvett@spsk12.net) or visit the PRC website at:

[https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent\\_resource\\_center\\_-\\_special\\_education](https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent_resource_center_-_special_education).

## Parent Video Series on Significant Cognitive Disability Supports at Home (NCEO/TIEs Center/OSEP) Available Now (Online)



The National Center on Education Outcomes (NCEO) and the TIEs Center, both funded by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) have jointly published the first four videos in a series for parents of K-12 students with significant cognitive disabilities. The videos, which you will find below, address various aspects of supporting the learning of children with significant cognitive disabilities at home:

- [Helping Your Child with Routines at Home](#)
- [Helping Your Child with the Foundations of Communication at Home](#)
- [Helping Your Child with Communication at Home](#)
- [Helping Your Child with Academics](#)

Each video focuses on three key questions: Why is it important to focus on this with my child at home? How can I do this at home? What support can I ask for from my child's school? These videos will help families learn ways to support the learning of their children with significant cognitive disabilities at home and have conversations with teachers to link home to school supports. Educators and other audiences will also find the videos useful as they work with parents and families. To access these videos, please go online to

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VADOE/bulletins/2c5ffe5>.

## Understanding Special Education (PEATC) (Military Only)

### March 18, 2021 Beginning at @ 7:00 p.m. (Online)

#### (Military Connected Families Only)



This workshop will help you "identify your child's learning strengths and challenges as well as organize your important information about your child so it will be helpful in educational planning. Come and learn the phases of the special education process and identify the specific actions you may take during the special education process. You will become familiar with how to address disagreements, formally and informally, and learn ways to work as partners with teachers and other school personnel.

If you are a military family residing in NC, PEATC will have Nicole Bougie, ECAC, with them to share the information that is specific to NC."

To register for this workshop, please go online to <https://peatc.org/event/understanding-special-education-military-only/>.



## Upcoming Workshops/Training Opportunities

### Latinx Outreach Summit 2021 (PEATC)

April 24, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

**Versión en español:** La Cumbre de Alcance Latinx se creó para “brindar un espacio seguro de discusión y acción para crear mejores condiciones para la comunidad Latinx a la que servimos en todo el estado de Virginia. Esta cumbre que reunirá a familias y profesionales para una mejor comprensión de la Educación Especial, la diversidad, la cultura y la oportunidad de aprender sobre los desafíos específicos que enfrenta nuestra comunidad.

La Cumbre contará con presentadores expertos, una variedad de proveedores que brindarán información sobre los diferentes servicios que Virginia tiene para ofrecer y sesiones de empoderamiento enfocadas en explorar diversas perspectivas y experiencias en nuestra comunidad Latinx. ¡Juntos como comunidad podemos LIDERAR, APOYAR y EMPODERAR!

Esta cumbre incluirá presentaciones en vivo, paneles de discusión, recursos y materiales complementarios. Los certificados de finalización estarán disponibles para aquellos que completen el Latinx Summit 2021.

Una versión grabada de la Cumbre de Alcance Latinx 2021 estará disponible para todos los participantes registrados del 24 de Abril hasta el 1 de Mayo.”

Aprender más, vaya en línea a <https://peatc.org/event/latinx-outreach-summit-2021-en-espanol/>.

**English version:** The Virtual Latinx Outreach Summit was created “to provide a safe space for discussion and action to create better conditions for the Latinx community we serve throughout the state of Virginia. This summit will bring families and professionals together for a better understanding of Special Education, diversity, culture, and the opportunity to learn about the specific challenges facing our community.

The Summit will feature expert presenters, a variety of vendors providing information on the different services Virginia has to offer, and empowering sessions focused on exploring diverse perspectives and experiences in our Latinx community. Together as a community we can LEAD, SUPPORT and EMPOWER!

This summit will include live presentations, panel discussions, resources, and supplemental materials. Certificates of completion will be available to those who complete the Latinx Summit 2021.

A recorded version of the Latinx Outreach Summit 2021 will be available to all registered participants from April 24 through May 1.”

To learn more, please go online to <https://peatc.org/event/latinx-outreach-summit-2021-en-espanol/>.



### 7th Annual Advocacy Online Symposium (PEATC)

May 3 - 10, 2021 (Online, Self-paced)



The 2021 VIRTUAL Advocacy Symposium will “provide relevant and up-to-date information to parents and professional advocates (paid and unpaid) that will empower them to positively support parents of children with disabilities in Virginia. Participants will hear about the importance of self-advocacy, the new seclusion and restraint regulations, mental health and social wellness, conflict resolution from a professional and parent perspective, national special education priorities, dispute resolution, transition and more.”

This symposium begins on May 3, 2021 and content remains open until May 10, 2021. Participants progress at their own pace.

Registration for this event opens on March 1, 2021. For more information, please go online to <https://peatc.org/event/7th-annual-advocacy-online-symposium/>.



## Special Education Parent Resource Center

Located in:  
**Booker T. Washington Elementary School**  
Room 305  
204 Walnut Street  
Suffolk, VA 23434

**Special Education Parent Resource Liaison:**  
**Vivian Evett**  
Email: [VivianEvett@spsk12.net](mailto:VivianEvett@spsk12.net)  
Phone: (757) 925-5785  
Fax: (757) 925-5596



Have questions about the Special Education Process



## Contact the Parent Resource Center for more information on:

- Advocating for Your Student
- Child Find Services
- Special Education Process
- Individual Education Programs (IEP)
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Parent Support Groups and Networking
- Transitioning from School to Adulthood
- Workshops/Training Opportunities

Check us out online at:

[https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent-resource-center-special-education.](https://www.spsk12.net/departments/special-education/parent-resource-center-special-education)



## I'm Determined Youth & Parent Summit (Online)

June 14 - 17, 2021

**Available to youth with disabilities ages 13 to 21 years old and their parents/guardians.**

The I'm Determined Youth and Parent Summit is a "three-day event held each June and sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education and the Partnership for People with Disabilities. Youth with disabilities, ages 13 to 21 years old, and parents who support their youth, from across the Commonwealth meet to network and discuss issues of importance to youth and young adults with disabilities. This Summit will be held online this year due to COVID-19 concerns; however, the Virtual Summit will follow a similar feel to the face-to-face events. Events will include a welcome from VDOE representatives, sessions for youth which were prepared with help from state youth leaders, sessions for parents, a keynote address, an assistive technology lab, and exhibitor information focusing on Virginia resources for youth with disabilities. These opportunities may include live workshops to learn and practice self-determination skills, ask questions, have conversations, and we're hoping to have a virtual dance party as well!"

To learn more about this opportunity, please go online to <http://www.imdetermined.org/youth-summit/>.

## I'm Determined MOVE Summit (Online)

July 18 - 20, 2021

**Available to Virginia African-American male youth with disabilities ages 13-21 and parents/guardians.**

The MOVE Summit, sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education, "focuses on empowering African-American males with disabilities to overcome barriers, become self-determined, and to graduate high school, college and career ready. Each July, the Virginia Department of Education welcomes African-American males with disabilities from across the Commonwealth to participate in a three-day summit. The 2021 MOVE Summit will be a virtual event July 18-20. Through utilizing state leadership and mentors, young men ages 13-21 engage in activity-based learning. Participants unlock their potential to overcome barriers, become self-determined, and graduate high school to be college and career ready. Concurrent parent workshops offer resources and tools to promote self-determination in their sons and increase parent engagement in the education process."

For more information on the MOVE Summit, please go online to <http://www.imdetermined.org/move/>.