



Special Education Council Annual Report May 2025 for School Year 2024-2025

General Information:

The purpose of the Crescent City Schools Special Education Advisory Council (CCS SEAC) is to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources and engage in outreach to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education. The intent of the SEAC is to provide thoughtful insight in support of students with disabilities.

Members:

- Mary Ellen Costello, Director of Special Education at Crescent City Schools
- Denise Briggs, Parent
- Chelsea Hyche, Parent
- Kristen Lagarde, Teacher at Harriet Tubman Charter School
- Karly Taranto, Teacher at Harriet Tubman Charter School
- Canisha Tobe, Parent
- Taleah Thompson, Parent
- Chanel Long, Parent

SEAC Update:

The Crescent City Schools Special Education Council convened their first meeting on October 9, 2024 to discuss the general outline of Special Education at Crescent City Schools. In this meeting members discussed the various placement settings that Crescent City offers at each of our campuses, how large our special education population is and how Crescent City Schools compared to other schools in both New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Members also discussed how they could support teachers in their work. The goal was to learn how parents and teachers could ultimately have a better partnership between one another that would result in a better understanding the diverse students they support and in a better support of those students.

The Council also reviewed behavioral systems for students and how they may differ between campuses. Members reviewed the latest iteration of behavior management and the positive behavioral strategies that are used school wide versus how a student with a behavior plan may

be supported. Members also discussed the various training that staff receive to learn these strategies and discussed methods to refine this professional development.

SEAC finally, reviewed students in special education progress versus that of their peers to determine the disparity between their testing scores and discussed ways to support them in the future.

SEAC is excited in the future to review programming that supports transition and life skills work and to be a place for teachers and guardians to build skills to support diverse learners.