

SEDAC ROLE  
&  
OVERVIEW OF  
INITIATIVES THIS  
YEAR

### Primary Role

- Advise our Board on issues significant to the Special Education Community
- Act as a conduit of information between community and district and develop charges to work on topical areas of concerns

### Community Building and Communication Efforts

- **Collaborate through Parent Resource Network:** collaborated on training plan
- **Support Community Outreach:**
  - Representation at Back to School nights or Get your Stuff Day at select sites
  - Planning of local community events e.g, Dance Party, Movie Night and Spring Formal
  - Collaborate on monthly newsletter content to ensure relevant issues and events get included
- **Organize Information Sessions:**
  - Meet the Special Ed Resources at Site/ District
  - Piloted parent session (led by Darcy) on current programming offered at LMS and Diploma vs. Certificate tracks

## CHARGE #1: PROGRAMMING

*Develop an understanding of research-based practices applied in Special Education in SMMUSD and provide parental perspective and input into the District's Special Education Departmental goals that are focused on closing the achievement and opportunity gap.*

### Recommendations

- Develop a plan to where student education needs are trending and build programs to fit into that model by conducting a bottoms-up study of our student needs
- Ensure communication with parents related to programming is consistent with the developed district plan and communicated in a timely manner (See *Communication Charge and communications assets created on available programs*)

## CHARGE #2: COMMUNICATION

*Develop set of recommendations on a more effective communication plan for families of students with special needs (IEPs) in collaboration with special education leadership. Recommendations should specifically address communication timelines and forums for sharing key components.*

- Committee developed a list of communication assets to be shared with families of students in special education including recommendations on forums (events) where communication should take place.

### Additional Recommendations

- Need for set of consistent policies for communications to families across the journey from transition into the District to exit.
- Develop centralized hub/ location where all important resources (information assets) live online so parents know where to go
- Roll out consistent standards for IEP Meetings across sites

## CHARGE #3: TECHNOLOGY

*Develop an understanding of the District's Assistive Technology goals for universal design for learning and the provision of individualized supports, in collaboration with the Special Education Administrative Team and Assistive Technologist. Provide input from a parental perspective into SMMUSD's Assistive Technology Plan.*

### Recommendations

- **Technology adoption:** While teachers are trained, not all actually use the technology they have been trained on. The district should consider adjusting the approach to improve adoption and provide more consistent access to technology by sharing/ enabling parents as well as teachers.
- **Learning management:** Need for parents and students to access curriculum/ academic materials as well as IEP reports digitally via web-based portal.
- Relevant **assistive technology resources** need to be shared with families so they can complement and support learning at home