

SPECIAL EDUCATION

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Special Education Advisory Committees (SEAC) meet on a regular basis. Contact your local office of special education to find out when your SEAC meets. All of these committees are open to the public and allow public comment to take place at their meetings. These committees, specific to Virginia, follow state regulations as advisory committees to the local school boards. They make recommendations to their respective school boards on ways to improve the education of students with disabilities.

Virginia Department of
Education website
<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/>

The VDOE website Has a **New Look** – this site was redesigned to make information easier to find and accessible to all of our online visitors. Visit our [User Tips & Hints](#) page for information about our new design that will help you find content more quickly, whether you are an educator, parent, student or someone interested in learning more about the department and the commonwealth's public schools.

Endeppendence Center, Inc.

The Endeppendence Center has made significant efforts to foster the growth of the community organizations that strive to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. One of the most successful groups has been PIER (Protecting Individuals with disabilities Educational Rights). PIER consists of parents of children with disabilities, advocates, and educators committed to improving the quality of education for students in our local communities and in our state. The Endeppendence Center provides support for PIER meetings and conferences.

Follow the Endeppendence Center on Facebook.



PIER

Protecting Individuals with disabilities
Educational Rights
6300 East Virginia Beach Blvd., Norfolk, VA
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cward@endeppendence.org

**Protecting Individuals with
disabilities Educational Rights**

PIER MEETINGS 2010-2011



**Students, parents,
educators, and other
advocates
committed to quality
educational opportunities
for students**

**Protecting Individuals with
disabilities Educational Rights**

**For more information:
351-1585**

More about PIER

PIER (Protecting Individuals with disabilities Educational Rights) is a group for parents of children with disabilities, students, advocates, and educators.

As a volunteer coalition, PIER's members work on systemic issues regarding education that affect a large numbers of children with disabilities. PIER members have reviewed the annual special education plans and federal funding applications submitted by local school systems to the Virginia Department of Education for compliance with federal regulations. In several recent local elections for school board positions, PIER has surveyed the candidates with questions concerning special education issues and published the results in a widely distributed voter's guide.

PIER has also sponsored, with support from other parent groups, a comprehensive educational advocacy course for people interested in learning more about special education history, rights, regulations, assessments, evaluations, and more.

PIER welcomes all community members to our meetings.

Meetings will be held at the Endependence Center, 6300 E Virginia Beach Boulevard, in Norfolk. This location is very close to the intersection of Newtown Road and Virginia Beach Boulevard at the Norfolk/Virginia Beach line.

Meetings usually begin at 9:00 am and end at Noon. Workshops are free and everyone is welcome but please RSVP at least one day before the workshop so handouts can be prepared.

Call 351-1585 or send a message to cward@endependence.org for more information.

PIER

PIER Meeting Dates and Topics 2010-2011

EVENING MEETING - Wednesday, October 13 6:30PM - 8:30PM **October 13 - VIRGINIA ASSESSMENTS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

This presentation will explain the various Virginia education assessments, such as SOLs, VGLA, and the VAAP, and how they related to students with disabilities, as well as new changes to the Virginia Grade Level Assessment (VGLA).

Jeff Phenicie, Educational Specialist, Virginia Department of Education **SATURDAY MEETINGS 9:00 AM until NOON**

November 20 - FUNCTIONAL BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENTS

Join us for a presentation is Functional Behavioral Assessments and Behavioral Intervention Plans-How Do They Work and What To Ask For? We also want to talk to parents about new legislation that is being developed to address Seclusion and Restraint issues both in Virginia and by the federal government and how this could affect our schools. There will also be an opportunity to discuss parental issues and concerns after the presentation.

Paula McMahan, Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy, VOPA

January 22 - SEACS IN THE TIDEWATER AREA

Come meet with members of local Special Education Advisory Committees from various cities as they discuss issues important to parents and students, as well as strategies to be more effective in their role as advisory committees. You will also have the opportunity to speak with our state level SEAC representative for Region 2.

March 19 - ASSESSMENTS AND EVALUATIONS - ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS TO YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION The educational process for specialized services begins with assessments and evaluations. Educational needs are substantiated by test results, making them the cornerstone in building an IEP with appropriate goals and services. Knowledge of assessments can make you a more effective participant in the IEP team decision making process. Do you understand your student's test results?

Amy Courtney, Education Specialist, Consultant, Advocate

April 9 - KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Our speaker will be a representative from the Office for Civil Rights in Washington D.C. This presentation will cover school districts' responsibilities to students with disabilities under Section 504 and the ADA, eligibility and changes made by the ADA, and procedures for evaluation and placement. OCR complaints and what happens during an OCR investigation will also be discussed.

RSVPs for meeting attendance are appreciated, contact Cheryl Ward at 351-1585 or cward@endependence.org