



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
STATE ADVISORY PANEL ON SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Public Meeting 5
Thursday, January 15, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

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Meeting ID: 278 839 928 457 88

Passcode: k8XT2JE3

AGENDA

SAPSE members: Tikeya Milburn, Michelle Parish, Julie Camerata, Faith Gibson-Hubbard, Ryan Tauriainen, Joelle Myers, Margie Yeager, Nicole Lee-Mwandha, Rochanda Hiligh-Thomas, Roxanne Williams

DC State Board of Education: Representative Dr. LaJoy Johnson-Law, Representative Eboni-Rose Thompson, Representative Robert Henderson

Public attendees: Danielle D. Davis, Stephanie Maltz

OSSE: Jasmine Fleming, Christie Weaver Harris, Andrew Gall

Time	Topic
6:00 – 6:05 p.m. (5 mins)	Call to Order/Welcome Vote on Agenda Vote on December 2025 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">The panel did not have a quorum and was unable to vote on the agenda or approve the previous meeting minutes. Members agreed to review these topics further and revisit the discussion in February. <i>Faith Gibson-Hubbard – SAPSE Chair</i>
6:05 – 7:00 p.m. (55 mins)	Public Comment/ Strategic Plan Next Steps <i>Jasmine Fleming – OSSE</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Concerns were raised about how students will meet the criteria for graduation requirements. The panel discussed various strategic planning priorities, including exploring the role of artificial intelligence in education, improving technology systems, and addressing data privacy issues, and the use of AI in

	<p>creating IEP goals and Present Levels of Performance (PLOPs).</p>
<p>7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (60 mins)</p>	<p>State Board of Education (SBOE) Graduation Task Force <i>Joined by Rep. Robert Henderson and Rep. Eboni-Rose Thompson</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SBOE representatives provided a summary of the graduation task force’s progress. ○ Upcoming sessions will address capstone projects, diploma endorsements, community service, and CTE requirements. • Review of Previous Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SBOE representatives requested any meeting minutes, questions or feedback from the November presentation on the Practical Studies diploma to inform the task force’s considerations. ○ The task force is still in a feedback-gathering phase and will soon transition to developing recommendations. • Engagement with Disability Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members emphasized the importance of engaging parents, educators, and advocates from the disability community. ○ Concerns were raised about limited representation from parents and charter schools and challenges in capturing broad feedback. ○ The group discussed strategies for improving public engagement despite attendance limitations. • Practical Studies Diploma – Clarifications and Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OSSE clarified that the Practical Studies diploma is an alternate diploma, finalized after earlier ambiguity during stakeholder engagement. ○ Members expressed concerns about the diploma’s value for college admission, employment, and homeschooling approval.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions were raised about whether students might be pushed into this pathway, reducing opportunities for earning a standard diploma. ○ Members requested safeguards to prevent inappropriate placement and systemic inequities. ○ Acceptance by colleges and employers cannot be guaranteed and will depend on future outreach and partnerships. SBOE Rep. Thompson explained that college acceptance depends on agreements that cannot be pursued until after the requirements are finalized. ○ Virginia’s Applied Studies diploma was cited as a model, and members stressed the need for agreements with UDC, PGCC, and NOVA. ● Public Feedback and Member Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participants questioned the feasibility of the example student profiles meeting credit requirements within limited timeframes. ○ Concerns were raised about legal implications if students list the Practical Studies diploma as a “high school diploma” on job applications. ○ Equity concerns were highlighted, including the risk of disproportionate impact on Black and Brown students and students at risk. ○ Members stressed the need for clear communication, eligibility checklists, and transparency to prevent misinformation. ● OSSE Responses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OSSE confirmed that the diploma is intended for a small subset of students currently on the certificate track. ○ The diploma will not count toward the adjusted cohort graduation rate, reducing incentives for misuse. ○ OSSE committed to reviewing example student profiles and addressing challenges related to course availability. ● Additional Concerns
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Members discussed the burden of community service requirements on families and caregivers.○ Suggestions were made to recognize work experience as credit for students who work to support their families.○ Questions were raised about whether students would be encouraged to take more than four years to complete requirements; OSSE clarified that extended timelines are allowed but not mandated.● Next Steps<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The SBOE task force remains in a listening phase; no decisions have been made.○ A public survey remains open for feedback.○ Two more meetings are planned through April and May to review endorsements, capstone projects, and CTE requirements.○ The earliest possible vote on graduation requirements is expected in May.○ Members were asked to suggest additional spaces for engagement and outreach.● Action Items<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ OSSE will provide prior meeting minutes and determine feasibility for mapping out credit completion pathways for the example student profiles.○ OSSE will explore agreements with local colleges and clarify homeschooling approval requirements.○ SBOE task force will continue gathering feedback from disability advocates and other stakeholders.○ Public participants are encouraged to submit feedback via the open survey and attend upcoming meetings.
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This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

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