

Athlos Academy St. Cloud

# Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) 2022-2023 Newsletter



## **SEAC Mission Statement**

We, as parents and educators, are dedicated to break through the boundaries of whatever the special need may be to ensure that each child reaches their own personal potential.

## **What is SEAC?**

SEAC is an acronym for the Special Education Advisory Council, which is a group that provides input on special education issues to its local school district. Its purpose is to advise and advocate. By sharing their unique perspective of what it is like to use these services, parents can help the district to be more effective. In order to increase the involvement of parents of children with disabilities in district policy making and decision making, school districts have a special education advisory council that is incorporated into the district's special education system plan.

## **How can SEAC help you?**

Attending the advisory meetings can help you better understand how to work with the school division and how special education can meet the needs of children and youth with disabilities.

If you have any questions about attending meetings, interest in joining this group, or have a question about special education, email your school representative, Chloe Smith, at [csmith@athlosstcloud.org](mailto:csmith@athlosstcloud.org).

# Athlos Academy Special Education

## About the Special Education Program

The following underlying assumptions guide the organization and provision of special education services in our school:

1. Special Education is a service that should be delivered to students in the least restrictive environment possible to meet their academic and social needs.
2. Students with disabilities should have exposure to the rich curricular, instructional, and social opportunities that their non-disabled peers receive.
3. Students with disabilities should be held to high expectations and rigorous academic pursuits.
4. Families are essential partners in making educational decisions for students.
5. Accountability and evidence of progress is an essential component of our special education services.

Students receive a full range of appropriate special education and related services, in the general education setting and/or in pull-out small groups or individual instruction. The goal of Athlos is to be able to provide a rich system of inclusive education.

## State and National Special Education Resources

### PACER Center

- PACER Center is a parent training and information center for families of children and youth with all disabilities from birth to young adults. Located in Minneapolis, it serves families across the nation, as well as those in Minnesota. Parents can find publications, workshops, and other resources to help make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their children with disabilities. Website: [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

### Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children

- The Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children (MNCEC) is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. The MNCEC works in accord with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) as a state unit. We accomplish our mission through advocacy, and professional development that align with Minnesota and National standards. Website: [minnesota.exceptionalchildren.org](http://minnesota.exceptionalchildren.org)




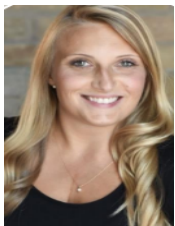


### The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

- The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services understands the many challenges still facing individuals with disabilities and their families. Therefore, OSERS is committed to improving results and outcomes for people with disabilities of all ages. OSERS supports programs that serve millions of children, youth and adults with disabilities. Website: [www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers)

### Procedural Safeguards

- The procedural safeguards are a set of requirements that go across the laws and regulations of IDEA to protect the rights of children with disabilities and their families, particularly in regard to the access to free appropriate public education (FAPE). Website: [education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/proc/](http://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/sped/proc/)

# Special Education Contacts

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|    | <p>Special Education Coordinator<br/>Special Education Advisory Council Representative<br/>Chloe Smith<br/>csmith@athlosstcloud.org</p> |
|    | <p>School Principal<br/>Tracee Cahalan<br/>tcahalan@athlosstcloud.org</p>   |
|   | <p>Special Education Director<br/>Kelsey Kiefer<br/>kelsey_kiefer@alabpmn.org</p>   |
|  | <p>Due Process Coordinator<br/>Andrea Nelson<br/>andrea_nelson@alabpmn.org</p>  |
|  | <p>Due Process Specialist<br/>Libbey Stettner<br/>libbey.stettner@nova-education.org</p>  |
|  | <p>Special Education Administrative Assistant<br/>Lisa Loidolt<br/>lloidolt@athlosstcloud.org</p>                                       |