Denise Lemire <dlemire@sau21.nh.gov>

Fwd: Seabrook special education request

1 message

Lacey Fowler <lfowler@sau21.nh.gov> Tue, Jun 9, 2026 at 5:39 PM
To: Denise Lemire <dlemire@sau21.nh.gov>

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Commissioner Davis** <Commissioner.Davis@doe.nh.gov>
Date: Fri, Jun 5, 2026 at 2:52 PM
Subject: RE: Seabrook special education request
To: Lacey Fowler <lfowler@sau21.org>, Michele Knowles <mknowles@sau21.org>, Jennifer Hubbard <jhubbard@sau21.nh.gov>, Casey Hashem <chashem@sau21.nh.gov>, SSB Maria Brown <mabrown@sau21.nh.gov>
Cc: Meredith Nadeau <mnadeau@sau21.nh.gov>

Dear Lacey,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Seabrook School District and the School Board's request that the New Hampshire Department of Education expand its review to include all remaining Individualized Education Programs within the district.

First, I want to apologize that this request became crossed with a separate RSA 91-A request related to the Seabrook special education concern which was closed out. I am sorry that I did not follow up with you directly in a timelier manner on this specific request.

The Department takes concerns regarding the provision of special education services very seriously. Following receipt of the Board's request to the Department, the Department followed up with Superintendent Nadeau regarding the district's response to the findings from the recent complaint investigation as it had simultaneously been reported that an independent audit/review was underway.

The Superintendent informed the Department that the district individually contacted each parent of a child receiving special education services and advised families that, if they believe their child's current levels of performance may have been impacted by services that were missed or undocumented during the school year, they may request that their child's IEP team reconvene for a progress monitoring meeting. Families were further informed that the district would provide a detailed analysis of documented services from 2024-2025, review the child's progress since September 2025, and discuss the potential provision of compensatory services, if needed.

The Department also understands that parents were provided information regarding the State's special education complaint process. This process remains available to any parent or individual who believes that the district has failed to comply with state or federal special education requirements. For more information, please see this link Special Education Complaints | Department of Education

At this time, the Department will continue to monitor the Seabrook School District through its established oversight and compliance processes, including annual LEA determinations, PAGS, fiscal monitoring, and other special education compliance-related activities. The Department will also continue to review any additional information, complaints, or compliance concerns that are brought forward through the appropriate processes and will take further action as warranted.

We appreciate the School Board's attention to this matter and its commitment to ensuring that students with disabilities receive the services and supports to which they are entitled. The Board's continued oversight of the school and district's activities is an important part of ensuring that concerns are identified, addressed, and appropriately monitored at the local level. The Department expects the district with support of its board to continue working directly with families and to address any missed or undocumented services in accordance with applicable state and federal requirements.

Thank you,

Caitlin

From: Lacey Fowler <lfowler@sau21.nh.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 2:14 PM
To: Commissioner Davis <Commissioner.Davis@doe.nh.gov>
Subject: Re: Seabrook special education request

EXTERNAL EMAIL WARNING! This email originated outside of the New Hampshire Executive Branch network. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email. Do not enter your username and password on sites that you have reached through an email link. Forward suspicious and unexpected messages by clicking the Phish Alert button in your Outlook and if you did click or enter credentials by mistake, report it immediately to helpdesk@doit.nh.gov!

Good afternoon,

I wanted to follow up on the Seabrook School Boards request.

Thank you,

Lacey Fowler

Chairman

Seabrook School Board

On Thursday, March 26, 2026, Commissioner Davis <Commissioner.Davis@doe.nh.gov> wrote:

> Lacey—
>
> Thank you for your email. I am acknowledging receipt and will review it with my team before following up.
>
> Thank you,
> Caitlin

From: Lacey Fowler <lfowler@sau21.nh.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 4:28 PM
To: Commissioner Davis <Commissioner.Davis@doe.nh.gov>
Cc: Lacey Fowler <lfowler@sau21.org>; Michele Knowles <mknowles@sau21.org>; Jennifer Hubbard <jhubbard@sau21.nh.gov>; Casey Hashem <chashem@sau21.nh.gov>; SSB Maria Brown <mabrown@sau21.nh.gov>
Subject: Seabrook special education request

EXTERNAL EMAIL WARNING! This email originated outside of the New Hampshire Executive Branch network. Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize the sender and are expecting the email. Do not enter your username and password on sites that you have reached through an email link. Forward suspicious and unexpected messages by clicking the Phish Alert button in your Outlook and if you did click or enter credentials by mistake, report it immediately to helpdesk@doit.nh.gov!

Commissioner Davis,

We are writing to formally request that the New Hampshire Department of Education conduct a comprehensive review of all Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) within the Seabrook School District that were not included in the initial sample of 24 IEPs recently reviewed as part of a complaint investigation into compliance. The Seabrook School Board takes this matter brought to our attention very seriously and voted unanimously for this request.

As you are aware, the findings from the limited review of 24 IEPs identified significant compliance concerns, including failures to provide required services. Given that 21 of the 24 IEPs reviewed were found to be out of compliance, there is a reasonable and urgent concern that similar issues may exist within the remaining IEPs that have not yet been evaluated.

The Seabrook School Board has expressed the need for a full and thorough review to ensure that:

- All students are receiving the services they are legally entitled to
- Any missed services are properly identified and addressed
- The district is in full compliance with state and federal special education requirements

In addition, there are serious concerns regarding whether services outlined in IEPs were consistently delivered as required, and whether all services that were documented, billed, or funded were in fact provided. Any discrepancy between services funded and services delivered would raise significant accountability concerns and warrants careful and thorough review.

Given the scope and seriousness of the initial findings, limiting the review to a small sample does not provide sufficient assurance to families, taxpayers, or the School Board that all students' needs are being met.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department of Education expand its review to include all remaining 96 IEPs within the district and take any necessary corrective actions based on those findings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued commitment to ensuring that all students receive the services and support they are entitled to under the law.

Sincerely,

Seabrook School Board