Date: May 14, 2025

To: Local Educational Agency Leads; Administrators of Approved Private Schools for

Students with Disabilities

From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner

Division of Educational Services

Deadline: May 30, 2025

State Special Education Advisory Council (NJ-SSEAC) Seeking New Members

The New Jersey Department of Education is seeking members for the New Jersey State Special Education Advisory Council (NJ-SSEAC) for terms beginning in the fall of 2025. The purpose of the NJ-SSEAC is to provide guidance on special education and related services provided in the State to the Commissioner of Education. Members of the council are appointed by the State Board of Education in accordance with the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2.

The council must consist of a minimum of seven and a maximum of 15 members. Additionally, half of the council members must be either a parent of a child with a disability or a person with a disability. Potential members must come from fifteen categories of individuals as outlined by the Federal guidelines. Regional representation is also a consideration.

At the present time, NJ-SSEAC is looking to fill four Council Member positions for 2025-2026.

Appointments are for a two-year term and are renewable for additional terms. Meetings are open to the public and are held from August to June on the third Thursday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (most meetings are virtual; some are hybrid, allowing participants to attend either online or inperson at NJDOE offices in Trenton). Monthly attendance is a requirement. Members are volunteers and are not reimbursed for their services. Interested candidates may review additional information here.

Interested individuals should complete the <u>2025-2026 SSEAC Application Form</u>. The candidate's resume should also be returned via email to <u>SpEdAdvisoryCouncil@doe.nj.gov</u>. Questions should be directed to the same email address or by telephone at (609) 376-9125.

c: Members, State Board of Education NJDOE Staff Statewide Parent Advocacy Network Garden State Coalition of Schools NJ LEE Group