



State of New Jersey

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution
September 14, 2022

Resolution to Appoint State Special Education Advisory Council Members

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 states that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually, with the approval of the State Board of Education, an advisory council for special education representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for the professional personnel; and

Whereas, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

Whereas, the New Jersey Department of Education (Department) has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the State Special Education Advisory Council (NJ- SSEAC), for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

Whereas, the advisory panel must be consistent with the IDEA, 34 CFR 300.168(b). The Advisory Council should, to the maximum extent possible, be representative of the State population, and it must be comprised of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including but not limited to: (i) parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) a representative of the State Parent Advisory Network (SPAN) Parent Training and Information Center; (iv) teachers; (v) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (vi) State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitle B of title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq.); (vii) administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (ix) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (x) no less than one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities. (xi) representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and (xii) a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care.

Whereas, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

Whereas, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the Department of unmet needs in the education of children with disabilities within the State; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the Department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the Department in developing evaluations and reporting of data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); (iv) advise the Department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part of the IDEA; and (v) advise the Department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the State mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

Resolved, that the Acting Commissioner recommends that Dr. Paul Barbato be reappointed as Chairperson to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Dr. Barbato is the Director of Special Services in the Dumont Public Schools. Dr. Barbato serves on the following: NJ State Special Education Advisory Council (Chair), New Jersey Association of Pupil Services Administrators (Immediate Past President), New Jersey Special Education Administrators Association (Board Member), NJ Principal and Supervisors Association (Special Education Committee), and the Bergen County Special Services School District Advisory Committee (Board Member); and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Harold Abraham be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to identifying as a person with a disability, Dr. Abraham is a principal and supervisor of special education. He also sits on the Board of Trustees for the New Jersey Coalition for Inclusive Education (NJCIE); and be it further

Resolved, that John Worthington, Esq. be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to being the parent of an adult with a disability, John is an education law specialist for Legal One at the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association (NJPSA/FEA); and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Pam Brillante be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Dr. Pamela Brillante is a Professor at William Paterson University in the Department of Special Education, Professional Counseling and Disability Studies. Dr. Brillante is an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the Division of Early Childhood for the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC) promoting high quality early childhood programs. In addition to her work in early childhood special education, Pam has written books and taught the concepts of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to general education and special education teachers; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Eniola Ajaya be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Dr. Ajaya comes with experience as a special education teacher, Learning Disability Teacher Consultant (LDT-C), Director of Special Education, Preschool Principal, District Section 504 Officer, and Homeless Liaison; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Dorothy McMullen be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to Dr. McMullen being a parent of a child who has a speech-only Individualized Education Program (IEP) and requires a 504 accommodation plan for comorbid disabilities, she currently serves as the Director of Special Projects and is responsible for the over-site of nursing, coordinating early intervention services, K-3 literacy interventions, and local policies around intervention and referral services (I&RS). She is also currently involved in aligning her district's I&RS to the New Jersey Tiered Systems of Support (NJTSS) model; and be it further

Resolved, that Ms. Elizabeth Alves be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to being a parent of a student with a disability, Elizabeth currently holds position as the President Elect, Treasurer and Scholarship Chair for the Learning Disability Association of New Jersey (LDANJ). Concurrently, she is Vice President of the Council for Affiliates for the Learning Disability Association of America where she organizes meetings and provides development in topics related to education and outreach of students with disabilities. She also works full-time as the Engagement Specialist for out-of-district program, Benway School; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Lottie Watson be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. She currently leads the University Heights Charter School District as its Supervisor and Director of Special Academic Programs. In addition, she is the District's Anti-Bullying Coordinator and Attendance Officer. She specializes in Urban Education and Leadership; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Peggy McDonald be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to her role as former Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Student Services, Dr. McDonald has vast knowledge and experience as a teacher of students who are deaf or hard of hearing, speech correctionist, and educational audiologist. She also specialized in transition services and acted as a liaison to the Office of Assessment to collaborate on the development of the state alternate assessment and expansion for accommodations and modifications to increase access to state tests for students with disabilities. Dr. McDonald currently acts as Coordinator of Special Projects for the NJPSA/FEA; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Carmen Henderson be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. In addition to being a parent of a neurodiverse student, Dr. Henderson has extensive training in clinical standardized assessment measures, informal assessment measures, diagnosis, and remediation of learning disabilities. Her educational experience has focused on programming and intervention for Autism Spectrum Disorder, dyslexia, early childhood development, special education policies, fostering learning outcomes, and culturally responsive practices. Dr. Henderson is the Director of Special Education in Haddonfield Public Schools in Camden County; and be it further

Resolved, that Mr. Scott Longazel be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Scott is the parent of a student with disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, that Dr. Cynthia DeFina be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Cynthia currently acts as Supervisor of Special Education for Secondary Education in Sayreville, NJ. Cynthia is also an Adjunct Professor for Seton Hall University and New Jersey City University; and be it further

Resolved, that Ms. Jocelyn Gottlieb be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Ms. Gottlieb is a parent of a student with multiple disabilities and a second with specific learning disabilities; and be it further

Resolved, that Ms. Jennifer Vecchiarelli be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective September 14, 2022. Jennifer Vecchiarelli is the current Assistant Superintendent of Special Services in Bayonne School District. Jennifer has extensive experience with the development of professional learning for educational systems inclusive of co-teaching, engaging struggling learners, and differentiation; and be it further

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the Acting Commissioner's recommended appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council for two-year terms effective September 14, 2022.