State of New Jersey

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution
September 9, 2026

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 State Special Education 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 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 Commissioner recommends that the following individuals be reappointed to new terms for the council:

Dr. Paul Barbato
Mrs. Jocelyn Gottlieb
Mr. John Worthington, Esq.
Ms. Elizabeth Alves
Dr. Margaret McDonald

Resolved, that the Commissioner recommends that the following individuals be appointed to new terms for the council:

Dr. Danielle Frith
Ms. Alyssa Wetzel
Ms. Jenny Hurd
Ms. Jamie Moscony
Dr. Gary Knight
Dr. Leisa Walker-Akinrolabu
Mr. Andrew Brandon

Resolved, that the State Board of Education hereby approves the Commissioner's recommended appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council for two-year terms effective September 9, 2026.

Dr. Lily Laux, Secretary N.J. State Board of Education	Kathy Goldenberg, President N.J. State Board of Education