

New Jersey State Special Education Advisory Council

MAY 21, 2026 AGENDA
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

9:30 am – 9:40 am

Call to Order

Dr. Paul Barbato, Chairperson
Jocelyn Gottlieb, Assistant Chairperson

- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes (April)
- Review of Agenda
- Links Shared During Meetings

10:05 am – 10:20 am

Council Discussion

- Old Business
 - [Dispute Resolution and Findings](#)
- Announcements
 - Office of Special Education Director Updates
 - State Resource Advisory (SPAN, NJSBA, DOC, JJC, DVRS, DOH, DCF, McKinney-Vento, etc.)
 - Advisory Council Connections
- Office of Special Education Connections (LRC, NJPBSIS, NJPIEP, etc.)

During the following presentations, only SSEAC Council Members and Stakeholders can comment in the chat.

10:20 am – 10:50 am

Examining Preschool Inclusion Quality in New Jersey: A Research Collaboration between the NJDOE Office of Special Education and Rutgers NIEER

Jennifer Duer, Ph.D. Assistant Research Professor National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers University

10:50 am – 11:20 am

Introduction to the Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery (LEAR Office)

Vanessa Hatton, Ph.D., Program Specialist, Office of Learning Equity and Academic Recovery, Division of Teaching and Learning, New Jersey Department of Education

11:20 pm – 11:25 pm

Break

11:25 pm – 12:45 pm

New Business

** Due to the virtual nature of the meeting, members of the public are invited to send their statements and concerns to SpEdAdvisoryCouncil@doe.nj.gov prior to the meeting. If requested, members will respond to you at a later time. Written material may be submitted to the Office of Special Education.*

- Membership Updates
 - NEW! Youth Justice Commission’s Representative: Phenice Walker
 - Application Period Closed (May 15, 2026)
 - Next Steps
- NJ-SSEAC Summative Evaluation
- Upcoming Meeting Reminders and Topics
 - *June (In-Person)* Schedule Adjustment: 9 am - 2 pm– Prior Recommendation Updates; **Director’s Response**; Annual NJ-SSEAC Survey Results; 4th Annual Special Education Celebration (*Memo Available*)
- NJ-SSEAC Summer Institute – August 25th and 26th
- Council Subcommittee Annual Report Presentation(s) and Approval(s)

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Public Comments *

1:00 pm

End of Public Session

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