



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: July 8, 2026
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: District Directors of Special Education, Special Education Parent Advisory Groups (SEPAG)
From: Kimberly A. Murray, Ed.D, Acting Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Lunch and Learn with the Special Education Ombudsman 2026-2027

The Office of Special Education (OSE) is committed to strengthening partnerships between families, school districts, and the New Jersey Department of Education to support positive outcomes for students with disabilities. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-1.2(h), each Local Education Agency (LEA) is required to maintain a Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG) to provide input to the LEA on issues concerning students with disabilities.

Purpose

To strengthen collaboration and foster a shared understanding of special education processes, the Special Education Ombudsman will host a Lunch & Learn for interested SEPAGs during the 2026–2027 school year. This session is designed for family members of students with disabilities and aims to empower them with the knowledge and resources needed to actively participate in the development and implementation of their child's special education program and services. Participants will gain an overview of key topics, including the meaning of a Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), parental rights under special education law, recent updates to the Parental Rights in Special Education (PRISE) document, and strategies for addressing and resolving disagreements. The session will also highlight collaborative and proactive approaches, including Facilitated IEP (FIEP) meetings and local resolution practices, to support effective communication, strengthen partnerships between families and schools, and encourage early resolution of concerns.

Meetings will be scheduled individually with each SEPAG group with availability beginning September 21, 2026.

Registration Link

If interested, please complete the [Registration for 2026-2027 Lunch and Learn](#). Please direct any questions to oseinfo@doe.nj.gov.