



State of New Jersey

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution  
November 4, 2020

**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 that consists of not fewer than seven nor more than 15 members 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, 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 consists of members who are representative of the State's population and who are involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including: (i) parents of children with disabilities; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) teachers; (iv) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (v) State and local education officials; (vi) administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (vii) representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (ix) at least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and (x) representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and

**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 Ms. Lonjeté Nias be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective November 4, 2020. In addition to being the parent of a student with a disability, Ms. Nias serves as the Supervisor of Special Services for the Neptune City Board of Education, is a former member of a district Child Study Team, and has experience as a school and clinical social worker; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Dr. Patricia White be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective November 4, 2020. Dr. White is a physician and the parent of a student with a disability. Dr. White is the co-founder of the National Down Syndrome Cognitive Research Foundation and has published research articles in several medical journals; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Mr. Vikas Jain be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective November 4, 2020. In addition to being the parent of a student with a disability, Mr. Jain has volunteered for organizations that develop and provide programming for students with developmental disabilities and has consistently advocated for inclusion in educational and workplace settings; and be it further

**Resolved**, that Mr. Mark Brugger be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective November 4, 2020. In addition to being the parent of a student with a disability, Mr. Brugger is an individual with specific learning disabilities and has more than 30 years of experience advocating for students with disabilities. Mr. Brugger founded a day camp for children with disabilities, and currently serves as the Associate Director of Marketing and Development for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Mercer County; 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 November 4, 2020.

---

Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

---

Kathy Goldenberg, President  
N.J. State Board of Education