



State of New Jersey  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Adoption Resolution  
August 7, 2024

**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) 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 New Jersey 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, and should, to the maximum extent possible, be representative of the State population, and 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; 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 the following individuals be either reappointed or appointed to new terms for the council:

Dr. Paul Barbato  
Ms. Jocelyn Gottlieb  
Dr. Harold Abraham  
Mr. John Worthington, Esq.  
Dr. Pam Brillante  
Dr. Dorothy McMullen  
Ms. Elizabeth Alves  
Dr. Peggy McDonald  
Mr. Scott Longazel  
Dr. Cynthia DeFina  
Ms. Jennifer Vecchiarelli  
Ms. Gladasia Trotman  
Ms. Amanda Villamar  
Ms. Diane Perez  
Ms. Sonya Bertini

**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 August 7, 2024.

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Kevin Dehmer, Acting Commissioner  
Acting Secretary, N.J. State Board of Education

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