



SPED ADVISORY COUNCILS

LA R.S. 17:3996 &
17:1944.1

NEW LAW!

By January 1, 2020, each charter school administrative head **must create a special education advisory council** to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources.

PURPOSE

Meetings, Outreach, & Reporting:

- Meet at least 3 times per year;
- Engage in community outreach activities to increase special education knowledge and support; and,
- Submit a written report to the charter school's administrative head each May regarding its activities.

COMPOSITION

Each charter school administrative head must: (i) seek applications for council membership; (ii) determine number of council members and composition thereof; and, (iii) designate the chairperson. *BUT of the council's membership:*

- 50% must be parents/legal guardians of enrolled students with an exceptionality other than gifted and talented.
- 25% must be teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals.
- 25% must be other special education stakeholders (e.g. outside providers).

LAPCS TIPS

- Use the council for *specific* SPED issues and be *specific* in the application as to the council's purpose, goals, and desired council member traits (experience, expertise, disability, grade, etc.).
- Use this as a new opportunity to further engage with parents, staff, and school community.
- Remember: the council reports directly to the school's administrative head, not the board.

Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools

**This is a summary and quick reference guide of SPED Advisory Council law and is not legal advice. Please be sure to read the laws in full: La. R.S. 17:3996 and 17:1944.1.*