

Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities

Monday July 20, 2026

(Meeting one of fiscal year 2027)

Virtual Meeting

In-Person Location: Tennessee School for the Blind (115 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville TN)

[Spectator link](#)

Objective

To provide policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for students with disabilities in Tennessee.

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
10-10:05 a.m.	Welcome & Introductions	Joey Ellis, Chair
10:05-10:10 a.m.	Approval of Agenda and January Meeting Minutes (Guiding Principle Seven)	Joey Ellis, Chair
10:10-10:15 a.m.	Open Floor	Council Members
10:15-10:25 a.m.	TDOE Updates (Guiding Principle One)	Jennifer Jordan
10:25-11 a.m.	Due Process Final Hearing Info (Guiding Principle One)	Taylor Jenkins
11-11:15 a.m.	Significant Disproportionality Updates (Guiding Principle Six)	April Ebbinger and Adam Rollins
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Statewide and local APR Update (Guiding Principle Six)	Adam Rollins
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Dispute Resolution Trends (Guiding Principle One)	Tricia Craig
12-1 p.m.	Working Lunch	
12-12:15 p.m.	OT/PT Communities of Practice (Guiding Principle Seven)	Jamie Seek
12:15-12:25 p.m.	TN TAN Update (Guiding Principle Seven)	Jennifer/Susan/Catherine
12:25-2:20 p.m.	Evaluation and Eligibility Procedures (Guiding Principle Three)	April Ebbinger/Jamie
2:20-2:50 p.m.	Private Pay Behavioral Services in Schools (Guiding Principle Three)	April
2:50-2:55 p.m.	Public Comments (Guiding Principle Seven)	The Council
2:55-3 p.m.	New Business/Additional Items (Guiding Principle Seven)	Chair
	Call for Future Meeting Topics (Guiding Principle Seven)	Chair
	Closing Remarks/Adjourn (Guiding Principle Seven)	Chair

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The Council's mission is to influence policy that shall ensure student success. This mission shall be accomplished through the following functions, as stated in the Tennessee Code at TCA §49-10-105 (e):

"The council shall:

- (1) Have an opportunity to comment on rules and regulations proposed for issuance pursuant to parts 1-6 or this chapter [Special Education Programs and Services];
- (2) Consider any problems presented to it by the governor, the commissioner, the state board of education or the director of the division of special education, and give advice thereon;
- (3) Review the state plan prepared pursuant to part 3 of this chapter prior to its submission to the governor and general assembly and comment thereon to the governor, the commissioner, the state board of education and the director: and
- (4) Make an annual report to the governor and the general assembly and the state board of education, which report shall be available to the general public and shall present its views of the progress or lack thereof made in special education by the state, its agencies and institutions, and its school districts during the preceding year."

The annual report shall include the following topics: P a g e 3

- Identification of unmet needs
- Reviews of evaluations
- Reviews of data reports
- Advice to the Department of Education in developing corrective actions
- Advice to the Department of Education in developing and implementing policy regarding coordination of services
- Advice on the education of eligible students in adult prisons referred to in the State Board of Education Rules and Regulations at Chapter 0520-1 -9. (7)(c)

Note: The public agency, after deleting any personally identifiable information, must—

- (1) Transmit the findings and decisions referred to in § 300.512(a)(5) to the State advisory panel established under § 300.167; and
- (2) Make those findings and decisions available to the public.

List of Active Advisory Council Members:

Joey Ellis (Chair)
Scott Rupe (Vice Chair)
Amy Allen
Angela Jackson
Catherine Knowles
Chantal Hess-Taylor
Darlene Walden
Stephanie Ortego



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Shannon Taylor
Emily Whitson
Jessica Peach
Jen Aprea