



What is the purpose of the Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities?

The Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities shall advise the State on unmet needs, initiatives of the Council and consult with the Governor, the Commissioner of Education, the State Board of Education and the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Special Populations, Tennessee Department of Education.

The Advisory Council is organized as mandated in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for students with disabilities in Tennessee.

What is the mission of the Council?

The Council's mission is to influence policy that shall ensure student success. The council shall:

- Have an opportunity to comment on rules and regulations proposed for
- 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
- Review the state plan prepared 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
- 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

When are Advisory Council meetings held and who can attend?

Regular meetings are held in Nashville, TN on a quarterly basis and special called meetings are held as needed. Public notice shall be made for each meeting of the Council. Public notice shall be made in a variety of media including the state website as well as by letters of invitation.
(<http://www.tn.gov/education/article/special-education-advisory-council>)

All regular and special Council meetings shall be open to the public and public input is welcomed and encouraged. Individuals who wish to speak to the Council are asked to contact the Chairperson within a reasonable amount of time prior to the meeting. The Chairperson may be contacted through the Council Secretary at the Department of Education, Division of Special Education.

Where can I go for help/resources?

There are many fine resources and organizations in Tennessee. The Advisory Council does not recommend one over another, but suggests you visit FAMILYPATHFINDER.ORG, a searchable database of disability resources in Tennessee, a service of Vanderbilt University.