



Dr. James Gray
Superintendent
Ajit "AJ" Pethe
Chief of Schools

May 17, 2022

Dear Dr. Gray,

ACT 274 requires the establishment of a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources and engage in community outreach. An annual report must be submitted to the Superintendent advising of the council's activities.

The Jefferson Parish Special Education Advisory Council met three times during the 2021-2022 school year – December 16, 2021, February 10, 2022, and April 7, 2022. The council consisted of 12 members of which 6 were parents of special education students, 3 were teachers and in the district, and 3 were student advocates representing the community.

The following topics were covered during council meetings this school year:

- The role and expectations of the Superintendent's Special Education Council
- Jefferson Parish School's framework for providing social and emotional support to students and staff
- Federal, state and local regulations that make up the special education policies and procedures in Jefferson Parish Schools
- Jefferson Parish Schools' framework for providing behavioral support to students and staff
- IEP meetings
- Social emotional learning lessons

Special education advisory council meetings provided an opportunity for two-way communication between district staff and council members on topics related to special education. Prior to the first meeting, a survey was conducted to determine which topics were most important to the council members. Feedback was also sought from council members at the conclusion of each meeting to ensure their input was considered for development of future meetings. In addition, advisory council meetings helped the District to develop, maintain, and build respectful working relationships with parents and student advocates.

Sincerely,

Ajit "AJ" Pethe
Chief of Schools
Jefferson Parish School