

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) ADVISORY COUNCIL

A SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE) ADVISORY COUNCIL SHALL BE ESTABLISHED.

Authority: F.S. 230.22 (1); F.S. 230.17; F.S. 286.011; F.S. 286.012
Policy Adopted: 11/13/01; 8/2/16

PURPOSE

In an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Advisory Council shall foster advocacy and enrich education for students with exceptionalities (including eligible students with 504 plans), and promote communication between ESE parents, the Superintendent of Broward County Public Schools, the Broward County School Board, and other district derived advisories.

RULES

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. A finite and set number of advisory committee members must be specified in each School-Board established advisory committee's establishing policy. This number of advisory committee members shall include all School Board-appointed representatives to the advisory committee and shall include all individuals entitled to vote at any meeting of the advisory committee.
2. Membership shall consist of 21 voting members and the ESE Director or BCPS designee as a non-voting member. A majority of the membership shall include parents, relatives, guardians, and/or surrogates of students with a variety of exceptionalities and backgrounds who are eligible to enter or are currently enrolled in or who have exited Broward County Public Schools. However, all interested parties are welcome and may attend, including school district personnel.
3. A Broward County School Board employee may not serve as Chairperson, Co-Chairperson, or Vice Chairperson.
4. Officers shall be elected by the membership. At a minimum, the ESE Advisory Council shall annually elect a Chair and Vice Chair. An appointee or member may hold neither of those offices for more than two (2) consecutive years. After serving as its Chair for two years, the appointee or member may not serve as an officer for a period of at least two (2) years.
5. No term limits shall be imposed upon any individual's service as an appointee.

B. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Duties and responsibilities of the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Advisory Council will be advisory in nature, none of which will conflict with the law, policy, or administrative guidelines to the Superintendent and the School Board of Broward County Public Schools.

2. Assist in developing, identifying, and assessing the educational needs, systemic issues, and priorities of students with exceptionalities and programs. All students with exceptionalities, including eligible students with 504 plans, are represented by this advisory through collaboration, consultation, and participation on school, District, and community-derived committees and organizations.
3. Provide a forum for information about school and community programs, advocacy, support, procedural guidelines, Individual Education Plans (IEP)/Transition IEP (TIEP) procedures, transition at all levels, college, vocational, and career readiness skills, school board initiatives, educational enrichment, resources, and data.
4. Provide suggestions and advocate for proposed legislation and tracking of new and existing federal, state and local policies addressing educational issues and programs.
5. Seek federal, state, and local legislative support for fully funded ESE programs.
6. Promote and encourage parent and community involvement concerning exceptional education issues and initiatives.
7. Implement and maintain ESE Advisory Council procedural by-laws and guidelines.
8. Promote integration to enhance the quality of education for students with exceptionalities in a diverse and inclusive setting.
9. Meet annually with the Superintendent or her/his designee to collaborate on the goals and objectives for the school year.
10. Collect information on issues brought forward by parents during ESE Advisory Council meetings and maintain a list of priority issues.
11. Finalize goals and objectives for the school year by the second meeting of the school year; and provide to the School Board through the Superintendent.
12. The ESE Advisory Council will create by-laws utilizing the established template.
13. Complete the school district's annual training program.
14. For all public documentation, electronic and social media containing the opinions and recommendations of the ESE Advisory Council, include a statement that the opinions of the ESE Advisory Council are not binding and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the School Board or those of any individual School Board Member or the Superintendent.

C. MEETINGS

1. The ESE Advisory Council must conduct meetings in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Law, School Board policies, ESE Advisory By-Laws, and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (Current Edition).
2. The Council will convene meetings on a regular monthly basis during the calendar school year and shall not conduct any meetings in July without receiving prior approval from the Superintendent.
3. Minutes will be recorded, maintained, and available for public view.