

Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

2021-2022

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Regulations § 34 CFR 300.167 and Rhode Island Regulations Governing the Education of Children with Disabilities § 6.5.9(A): State Advisory Panel.

Rhode Island is required to establish and maintain an advisory panel for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the state.

MISSION: The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee is an active voice in advocating that all students receive superior educational services enabling each student to achieve optimum success throughout the school years and into the world of adulthood.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC): (a) advises the Commissioner for Elementary and Secondary Education (State Education Agency (SEA)) on matters concerning: the unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities; (b) comments publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities; (c) advises the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) in developing evaluations and reporting on data; (d) advises the RIDE in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the IDEA; and (e) advises the RIDE in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities.

Membership of the committee is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities. Parents of children with disabilities birth through age 26 maintain the majority of the committee membership. The membership also includes individuals with disabilities, teachers, representatives of institutions of higher education, private schools, charter schools, state and local education officials, administrators of programs for children with disabilities foster care and homelessness, vocational, community or business organizations, juvenile and adult corrections and state child serving agencies.

The RISEAC meets monthly from October through May from 6:00 PM — 8:00 PM. Other meetings include a *New Member Orientation meeting* in August, a Saturday Strategic Planning meeting in September, and an Annual Dinner Meeting in June. The RISEAC By-Laws state that “Membership may be terminated for any member who is absent from three (3) regular meetings within one year by a majority vote...”

All applicants to the RISEAC must apply in writing to the Chair of the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee interviews applicants and makes recommendations to the full RISEAC membership. Those recommendations are then forwarded to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education for appointment.

If you are interested in applying for **2021-2022** membership on the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee, please complete the enclosed mini-biography and email, fax or mail directly to Kerri Sorensen at the following address:

Kerri Sorensen
Office of Student, Community & Academic Supports
RI Department of Education
255 Westminster Street
Providence, R.I. 02903-3400

For additional information about the Committee, please contact kerri.sorensen@ride.ri.gov
(401) 222-8341, or by FAX at (401) 222-6030

MINI BIOGRAPHY

NAME:

FULL ADDRESS:

PHONE #:	(h)	(cell)	(work)	(email)

Special Needs Population Involvement (parent, individual with disability, educator, advocate, service provider, organization representative, other):

What is your current involvement in your or other school district(s)?

Why would you like to be a member of the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee (RISEAC)?

What strengths or expertise can you offer the Committee?

Have you ever attended a Local Special Education Advisory Committee meeting?

Have you ever been involved with other committees serving children and youth with special needs? If so, please list...

The RISEAC meets once a month from October through May for 2 hours from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (occasionally a sub-committee meeting in between). An August Orientation Session for new members, one Saturday strategic planning meeting in September and an evening Annual Dinner Meeting in June are also convened.

Per RISEAC By-Laws, a member who is absent from three (3) regular meetings within one year by a majority vote of the RISEAC, may be terminated.

Please indicate whether you are able to make this commitment: YES NO

Feel free to send additional information you feel would help the committee.

Thank you!