

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004, § 300.167: State Advisory Panel.

IDEA requires each state 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.

***RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

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 and Board of Regents 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 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 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM. Other meetings include an evening *New Member Orientation* in August, a Saturday Strategic Planning meeting in September, and an Annual Dinner Meeting in June.

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 membership on the Rhode Island Special Education Advisory Committee, please complete the enclosed mini-biography and mail to:

Melissa MacDonald
Office for Diverse Learners
RI Department of Education
255 Westminster Street, Suite 400
Providence, R.I. 02903-3400

For further information about the Committee, please contact Melissa MacDonald at

Melissa.MacDonald@ride.ri.gov
(401) 222-8349, or by FAX at (401) 222-6030

MINI BIOGRAPHY

NAME _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

PHONE # (h) _____ **(cell)** _____ **work:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

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 6:30 - 8:30 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.

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!