



# *Advisory Panel Functions and Membership*

## **Special Education Advisory Panel Functions under IDEA**

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It is important for all Advisory Panel members to have a working understanding of the Panel functions as mentioned in IDEA. The following are the **functions of the Advisory Panel** as listed in IDEA 2004:

- ◇ Advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children and youth with disabilities. (300.169(a))
- ◇ Comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities. (300.169(b))
- ◇ Advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under 618. (300.169(c))
- ◇ Advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports. (300.169(d))
- ◇ Advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities. (300.169(e))
- ◇ Waiver of nonsupplant requirement. State must consult with the Advisory Panel regarding provisions of FAPE. (300.164(c)(4))
- ◇ Provide advice to the SEA in determining the risk ratio threshold above which disproportionality is significant. (34 CFR 300.647)

# Special Education Advisory Panel Membership under IDEA

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Each Panel member should have an understanding of Panel membership requirements under IDEA and which stakeholder's group they represent. The membership of the **State Advisory Panel must consist of members appointed by the Governor—or any other official authorized under State law to make these appointments---be representative of the State population**, and be composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children and youth with disabilities, including the following (from CFR 300.168):

- Parents of children with disabilities (*ages birth through 26*)
- Individuals with disabilities
- Teachers
- Representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel
- State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under subtitles B of Title VII of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act\*
- Administrators of programs for children with disabilities
- Representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or who deliver related services to children with disabilities
- Representatives of private school **and** public charter schools
- At least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities
- Representatives from the State juvenile **and** adult corrections agencies
- Representative from State child welfare who is responsible for foster care

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