



**T**he Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities is organized as mandated in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for students with disabilities in Tennessee. Members are appointed by the Governor and the Council operates in an advisory capacity.

### **What services or resources does this council provide?**

The Governor's Advisory Council for the Education of Students with Disabilities comments on proposed rules and regulations; considers any problems presented to it by the governor, the commissioner, the state board of education or the director of the division of special education, and gives advice; and brings to the attention of appropriate officials any unmet needs or areas of concern that the stakeholders who are members of the Council identify, or may be brought to the Council's attention in certain instances by the public, or non-members.

### **What areas of Tennessee do they serve?**

The Council serves all of Tennessee.

### **For which students might this agency be appropriate?**

Every student with a disability in Tennessee.



### **Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?**

Any member of the public is invited/encouraged to contact the Chairman of the Council with any concern they have regarding the education of students with disabilities in Tennessee. The Council is an advisory council and can only make recommendations, suggestions, and comments.

### **What is the referral process? What documents are needed?**

Not every concern is appropriate for the Council to address. Members of the public are invited/encouraged to contact the Chairman of the Council, who will determine if the issue/question/concern expressed is within the scope of the ability of the Council to address.



### **How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?**

- Teachers and parents should voice concerns and suggestions regarding the transition process at any time to the council
- The student can attend a council meeting or communicate with the council about their needs to strengthen self-advocacy skills needed in transition and beyond.
- Parents can access notes from council meetings to be aware of current disability issues students in Tennessee face, many of which could affect the student's post-school outcomes.

### **What questions should I ask of my campus disability office?**

- Are council meetings open to the public?
- What is the process to voice a concern to the council?
- How can the public access the notes from council meetings?

### **Where can I learn more information?**

- Give them a call at: 615-532-6310
- Email the chair at: [fairc@rcschools.net](mailto:fairc@rcschools.net)

### **Where can I learn more?**

Visit: <https://www.tn.gov/education/student-support/special-education/special-education-advisory-council.html>