

9. STATE ADVISORY PANEL (34 CFR 300.168)

The State of Missouri maintains 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. The advisory panel is appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department). The Panel is a public governmental body as defined by Missouri's Open Meetings and Records Law and complies with the "Sunshine Law."

Membership (34 CFR 300.651)

The membership of the State advisory panel is representative of the State population and is composed of individuals involved in or concerned with the education of children with disabilities, including:

- A. parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through twenty-six (26));
- B. individuals with disabilities;
- C. teachers;
- D. representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel;
- E. State and local education officials, including officials who carry out activities under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
- F. administrators of programs for children with disabilities;
- G. representatives of other State agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities;
- H. representatives of private schools and public charter schools;
- I. at least one (1) representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities;
- J. a representative from the State child welfare agency responsible for foster care; and,
- K. representatives from the State juvenile and adult corrections agencies.

A majority of the members of the panel must be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities (ages birth through twenty-six (26)).

Advisory Panel Duties (34 CFR 300.169)

The State advisory panel must:

- A. advise the SEA of unmet needs within the State in the education of children with disabilities;
- B. comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the State regarding the education of children with disabilities;
- C. advise the SEA in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary under section 618 of the Act;
- D. advise the SEA in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in Federal monitoring reports under Part B of the Act;

- E. advise the SEA in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; and,
- F. advise on the education of eligible students with disabilities who have been convicted as adults and incarcerated in adult prisons.

Advisory Panel Procedures

- A. The advisory panel shall meet as often as necessary to conduct its business.
- B. Official minutes must be kept on all panel meetings and must be made available to the public on request.
- C. All advisory panel meetings and agenda items must be announced enough in advance of the meeting to afford interested parties a reasonable opportunity to attend. Meetings must be open to the public.
- D. Interpreters and other necessary services must be provided at panel meetings for panel members or participants.
- E. The advisory panel shall serve without compensation but the State must reimburse the panel for reasonable and necessary expenses for attending meetings and performing duties.