

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 576 (HB 946)

2022 Regular Session

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Existing law requires each local public school superintendent and the administrative head of each charter school or other public school to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. Requires such a council to also engage in outreach activities to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

Existing law provides that the number of council members is determined by the authority creating the council. New law provides that if the council has fewer than eight members, the authority creating the council shall explain this decision to the council, and the council shall include the explanation in its required annual report.

New law modifies requirements regarding groups represented on the council as follows:

- (1) Parents or legal guardians of current students with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented:

Prior law required that 50% of council membership be members of this group. New law requires that *at least* 50% of council membership be members of this group. Provides however that this group may include:

- (a) Parents of children receiving special education services from the public school governing authority (who may not be enrolled at a public school).
 - (b) One high school student with an exceptionality, other than gifted and talented.
 - (c) One person who represents an entity that serves students with disabilities or their families.
- (2) Special education stakeholders other than parents and teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Prior law required that 25% of council membership be members of this group. New law requires that *at least* 10% of council membership be members of this group.

- (3) Teachers, principals, or paraprofessionals:

Prior law required that 25% of council membership be members of this group. New law requires that at least one member of the council be a teacher, principal, or paraprofessional employed in a school under the jurisdiction of the governing authority to serve students with disabilities.

Existing law requires that each local special education advisory council report annually to the superintendent or administrative head.

New law requires each council to also report to the Special Education Advisory Panel. Requires that the superintendent or administrative head ensure that the report is posted on the district's or the school's website. Further requires publication of all such reports on the state Dept. of Education's website.

Effective August 1, 2022.

(Amends R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(1) and (C); Adds R.S. 17:1944.1(B)(3)(c))