



JCFA East
Special Education Advisory Council
Annual Report

May 2024

What is the purpose of JCFA East's Special Education Advisory Council?

R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

Membership

Member	Role
Ms. Mary Cannon	<i>Entity That Serves Students with Disabilities</i>
Mrs. Jennifer Gumpert	<i>Teacher</i>
High School Student with a Disability	<i>Self-Advocate</i>
High School Student with a Disability	<i>Self-Advocate</i>
Mrs. Gabrielle Senentz	<i>Director of Special Education & Chair</i>

Advisory Council Meetings in 2023-2024

Date	Location	Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2024 - 11:45 a.m.	JCFA East	Enclosed
April 5, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.	JCFA East	Enclosed
May 3, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.	JCFA East	Enclosed

With a small constituency, a quorum could not be determined. However, the majority of members attended each meeting. Notice of upcoming meetings were provided at the conclusion of the current council session. Council members adhered to the established norms, in order to promote participation as well as to create a structured and supportive environment conducive to meaningful discussions.

- Being an active participant
- Listening to understand
- Assuming positive intentions
- Utilizing person-first language
- Maintaining confidentiality during discussions

Executive Summary

Overview of Special Education at JCFA East

As a Type 2 charter, JCFA East provides special education services, aligned to individual educational needs, to qualifying students ages 15 - 22. All students, including diverse learners, work to achieve their high school diploma utilizing the school's online curriculum, coupled with an instructor and an in-class tutor for each course. Diverse learners participate in the general education curriculum to the fullest extent possible.

Academic Performance and Subgroup Performance

In Fall 2023, 24 students with exceptionalities participated in high stakes testing at JCFA East, with 15 students as initial testers and 9 students as retesters.

- For initial testers, 73.3% passed their respective LEAP 2025 assessment and 33% achieved proficiency.
- Between initial testers and retesters, 70.8% passed their respective LEAP 2025 assessment and 25% achieved proficiency.
- Algebra I, Biology, and Geometry had the highest percentage of pass rate among all testers with 100% in each subject area.

Financials and Special Education

Financial data regarding the special education program is not available at this time.

Professional Highlights

A hallmark of each advisory council meeting was the robust discussion among council members. Members conversed regarding topics that were identified as important to them, as well as essential to improving outcomes to students with disabilities. Such topics included transition out of high school for graduating seniors, promoting self advocacy in the school setting, and refining special education instruction.

Another notable highlight is that JCFA East retained one of its advisory council members from the previous school year.

By having two high school students with disabilities on the council, it allowed for them to practice self-advocacy in a supportive space.

Opportunities for Growth

Looking ahead to the upcoming school year, recruiting members for the advisory council is an area of opportunity. With additional perspectives from stakeholders, JCFA East can become better enabled to holistically improve learning outcomes for diverse learners. Moreover, with additional members, the advisory council can engage in outreach activities to build relationships within the community at large.

Parent Engagement at JCFA East

Parent engagement is promoted throughout the school system at the organizational level. Parents are able to subscribe to text messages through Remind, which allows them to receive information for things like events, school closures, and testing reminders in real time. Social media outlets are frequently updated to showcase campus events and recent graduates. In addition, parents have the opportunity to see the “Positive Postcards” that get sent home to their child for accomplishments in school, as well as “We Miss You Postcards” in the event of absenteeism.

At JCFA East, events that parents are able to attend include Parent Teacher Conference, Graduation Breakfast, Meet the CAO, and informational sessions regarding FAFSA. During the recent spring testing administration, parents also had the opportunity to receive small goodies when dropping off their child. Students, including diverse learners, with the support of school staff, even got to participate in the distribution. Dedicated team members work to ensure that parent engagement events occur regularly throughout the school year.

How to Join

Applications for the 2024-2025 Special Education Advisory Council will become available in July 2024. Please contact the school for an application if you would like to participate.



Special Education Advisory Council

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

JCFA East

February 2, 2024

I. *Welcome and Introductions*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 11:45 a.m. Chair and two members introduced themselves and signed in to document their attendance. Two members were absent.

II. *Objective*

Our district's Special Education Advisory Council was created as a response to Louisiana legislative requirements. The council seeks to support the development of special education policies and procedures, and foster stability and growth for diverse learners.

III. *Member Expectations*

Members participate in an advisory role and there is no voting authority. Members are also asked to utilize person-first language. Moreover, confidentiality must always be maintained and specific students should not be discussed. Each member is asked to be an active participant, listen to understand, and assume positive intentions.

IV. *Open Discussion*

Per the Annual Report, the advisory council for 2022-2023 focused on best practices for special education and related services. Transition services for graduating seniors and self-advocacy was also discussed heavily and at length.

The advisory council discussed the following items during this meeting:

- Upon enrollment, preparing diverse learners for success by helping them acclimate to the new school environment.
- Utilizing push-in or pull-out special education instruction.
- Identifying ways students can advocate for themselves and how faculty and staff can support students in that advocacy.
- Supplementing transition services by having students complete more comprehensive interest surveys.
- Continual focus on transition services for graduating seniors.

V. *Closing*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m. Next meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Special Education Advisory Council

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

JCFA East

April 5, 2024

I. *Welcome*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 10:33 a.m. Chair and all members signed in to document their attendance.

II. *Open Discussion*

After reviewing the items from the previous meeting, the council focused on the following topics:

- How instructors can help students feel supported or better supported.
- What kind of accommodations can supplement that support: individualized instruction, guided notes, peer buddies for students on similar lessons, and mapping progress.
- Fostering constructive conversations aligned to student needs.
- Having a supportive introductory meeting at the beginning of the school year to discuss what kind of supports and services can be expected (which could be part of IEP meeting).

III. *Closing*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m. Next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Special Education Advisory Council

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

JCFEA East

May 3, 2024

I. *Welcome*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 10:33 a.m. Chair and all members introduced themselves and signed in to document their attendance.

II. *Open Discussion*

After reviewing the items from the previous meeting, the council focused on the following topics:

- Continual promotion of parental engagement, like at Parent Teacher Conference.
- Maintaining focus on food and nutrition for students.
- Learned about where children with disabilities can get swim lessons
- Resource board or similar item that let students know about upcoming events, like the Autism Festival.
- Educational resources, like books, that students can use if waiting for assistance in class, with the intention of supplementing the online instruction.
- One-on-one instruction and encouragement are identified as areas of strength.
- Continuing to utilize teaching methods like “I Do, We Do, You Do” was identified as areas of opportunity.

III. *Closing*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. All members were thanked for their participation on the council.