



JCFA Lafayette
Special Education Advisory Council
Annual Report

May 2024

What is the purpose of JCFA Lafayette’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. Nadia Ford	<i>Entity That Serves Students with Disabilities</i>
Ms. Mercedes Granvle	<i>Teacher</i>
High School Student with a Disability	<i>Self-Advocate</i>
Ms. Letha Scott	<i>Parent</i>
Mrs. Gabrielle Senentz	<i>Director of Special Education & Chair</i>

Advisory Council Meetings in 2023-2024

Date	Location	Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2024 – 10:30 a.m.	JCFA Lafayette	Enclosed
April 26, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.	JCFA Lafayette	Enclosed
May 17, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.	Zoom	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 Lafayette

As a Type 2 charter, JCFA Lafayette 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, 16 students with exceptionalities participated in high stakes testing at JCFA Lafayette, with 8 students as initial testers and 8 students as retesters.

- For initial testers, 75% passed their respective LEAP 2025 assessment and 38% achieved proficiency.
- Between initial testers and retesters, 50% passed their respective LEAP 2025 assessment and 18.8% achieved proficiency.
- Algebra I and Geometry had the highest percentage of pass rate and proficiency rate, among all testers, with 100% for both rates.

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, creating access to community resources, and building relationships with students and their support systems.

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

By having a high school student with a disability 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 Lafayette 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 Lafayette

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 Lafayette, events that parents are able to attend include Parent Teacher Conference, Open House, informational sessions about SDQ (Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire) and high stakes testing. Families are also invited to the holiday lunches and have also participated in a turkey raffle and a ham raffle during the winter holiday season. 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 Lafayette

March 15, 2024

I. *Welcome and Introductions*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 10:31 a.m. Chair and three members introduced themselves and signed in to document their attendance. One member was 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, as was parental engagement and inclusion of special education into existing structures.

The advisory council discussed the following items during this meeting:

- Barriers that diverse learners may face in regards to employment and how school can support students in overcoming these barriers before joining the workforce.
- Encouraging students and families to utilize community resources.
- Engaging parents after their student reaches Age of Majority and what that parental support looks like.
- Brief review of the process for Manifestation Determination Review and how to support students when a new behavioral concern surfaces.
- Establishing supports for teachers to build meaningful relationships with diverse learners.

V. *Closing*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. Next council meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Special Education Advisory Council

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

JCFA Lafayette

April 26, 2024

I. *Welcome*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 10:35 a.m. Chair and all members were in attendance: two by phone and three on-site. Members present on-site signed in to document their attendance.

II. *Open Discussion*

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

- Having a school-based resource fair and inviting different agencies.
- Learned about the Lafayette Parish Transit System and how it has services geared towards students with barriers.
- Encouraging students to utilize banking.
- Intensive review of any paperwork received by the previous school that indicates present level of performance, skills, and types of classroom supports and interventions provided
- Debrief with appropriate team members and implementing as appropriate
- Supporting the Pre-Enrollment and orientation process by emphasizing, upon enrollment, expectations.
- Using school as an opportunity for students to practice basic skills like filling out applications, literacy skills, stress management, etiquette, how to write in cursive
- Encouraging students to ask for help and creating a classroom environment that fosters intellectual curiosity.
- Use one-on-one sessions with students to allow them to self-advocate and be expressive, as they may be less talkative in groups.

III. *Closing*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. Next council meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.



Special Education Advisory Council

Agenda and Meeting Minutes

JCFA Lafayette

May 17, 2024

I. *Welcome and Introductions*

Welcome by Chair. Meeting commenced at approximately 10:40 a.m. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the meeting was held via Zoom. All members were provided with the Zoom link. Chair and three members were in attendance and signed in on Zoom chat. One member was absent.

II. *Open Discussion*

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

- How we as individuals and as a school can remove the stigma attached to special education, which includes fostering inclusivity by treating students the same and not making anyone feel left out
- Using educational resources to bring awareness to special education and understanding that a diagnosis does not “look” a certain way and dispel myths
- Having a designated school week to celebrate differences and having corresponding games for students to play
- Helping students integrate into the community and help them participate in volunteer events.
- Continuing to have school events for all students to participate in, especially diverse learners.
- Consideration of the council setting up informational nights for parents to mingle with different agencies.

III. *Closing*

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