



**State of New Jersey**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PO Box 500

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

DAVID C. HESPE  
*Commissioner*

June 3, 2015

**TO:** Members, State Board of Education

**FROM:** David C. Hespe  
Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Two Appointments to the State Special Education Advisory Council

I am hereby recommending that the following two individuals be appointed to the State Special Education Advisory Council for a two-year term effective June 3, 2015. The appointments are:

**Ms. Barbara Gantwerk** has been the director of Special Services for the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors Association and the Foundation for Educational Administration since June of 2013 where she coordinates programs that serve professionals working in the area of student support services. Prior to that, she was employed by the New Jersey Department of Education for 33 years where she was the state consultant for speech and language services, the director of the Office of Special Education Programs and the assistant commissioner for the Division of Student Services.

**Ms. Amy Smith** is the director of the Office of Information Services for Autism New Jersey where she represents the association to the community, presents on various advocacy topics and oversees the Information and Communications departments. She is a former teacher of the handicapped and the director of Childhood Services for the Arc of Somerset County, Inc.

CC/SM/PM/pf  
c: William Haldeman  
Susan Martz  
Diane Shoener  
Peggy McDonald

[www.nj.gov/education](http://www.nj.gov/education)

*New Jersey Is An Equal Opportunity Employer • Printed on Recycled and Recyclable Paper*



**Adoption Resolution  
June 3, 2015**

*State of New Jersey*  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**RESOLUTION FOR TWO APPOINTMENTS TO THE  
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 requires that the Commissioner shall appoint biannually an advisory council for special education with the approval of the State Board which will consist of not fewer than seven nor more than 15 members representative of professionals in the field of special education and parents of children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 18A:46-2 defines the role of the advisory council as advising in the promulgation of rules, regulations and implementation of N.J.A.C. 6A:14 and the establishment of standards and qualifications for professional personnel and further provides that the council members shall serve without remuneration; and

**WHEREAS**, the reauthorized Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) of 2004 requires each state education agency to have an advisory panel for special education; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Education has established and maintains an advisory panel, known as the State Special Education Advisory Council, for the purpose of providing policy guidance with respect to special education and related services for children with disabilities in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, the advisory panel consists of members, that are representative of the state population and are composed of individuals involved in, or concerned with, the education of children with disabilities, including: (i) parents of children with disabilities; (ii) individuals with disabilities; (iii) teachers; (iv) representatives of institutions of higher education that prepare special education and related services personnel; (v) state and local education officials; (vi) administrators of programs for children with disabilities; (vii) representatives of other state agencies involved in the financing or delivery of related services to children with disabilities; (viii) representatives of private schools and public charter schools; (ix) at least one representative of a vocational, community, or business organization concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities; and (x) representatives from the state juvenile and adult corrections agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, a majority of the members of the panel shall be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the advisory panel shall: (i) advise the department of unmet needs within the state in the education of children with disabilities; (ii) comment publicly on any rules or regulations proposed by the department regarding the education of children with disabilities; (iii) advise the department in developing evaluations and reporting on data to the Secretary of the United States Department of Education under Part B Sec. 618 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; (iv) advise the department in developing corrective action plans to address findings identified in federal monitoring reports under this part; and (v) advise the department in developing and implementing policies relating to the coordination of services for children with disabilities; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the State Special Education Advisory Council meets the state mandate for an advisory council and the federal requirements for an advisory panel; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner recommends that Barbara Gantwerk be appointed for a two-year term effective June 3, 2015

**RESOLVED**, that the Commissioner recommends that Amy Smith be appointed for a two-year term effective June 3, 2015.

---

David C. Hespe, Commissioner  
Secretary, NJ State Board of Education

---

Mark W. Biedron, President  
NJ State Board of Education