

HB 121-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0090

02/09

HOUSE BILL ***121-FN***

AN ACT establishing local school district special education parent advisory councils.

SPONSORS: Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 7; Rep. M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Rep. Terry, Belk. 7; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires school administrative units to establish a special education parent advisory council.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT establishing local school district special education parent advisory councils.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; District Special Education Parent Advisory Councils. Amend RSA 186-C by
2 inserting after section 3-d the following new section:

3 186-C:3-e District Special Education Parent Advisory Councils.

4 I. Each local school district shall establish a district special education parent advisory
5 council (DSEPAC).

6 II. The council shall be composed of a maximum of 11 parents with at least one member
7 representing each town in the district. The local district shall determine the council size with
8 consideration of the district size. Council members shall be selected through an open application
9 process. The initial council shall be selected by representatives from local parent-teacher
10 organizations. Subsequent council members, including any vacancies, shall be reviewed and voted
11 on by a selection committee composed of current council members and representatives from local
12 parent-teacher organizations. Members shall serve a term of 2 years, with the option for
13 reappointment for one additional consecutive term. The council shall elect a chair, vice chair, and
14 secretary at the first meeting of each school year. The district school board shall be notified of the
15 elected officers. Minutes of each meeting shall be taken and made available to the public.

16 III. Council meetings shall be open to all parents of students with disabilities, district staff,
17 and all other interested parties. The council shall ensure that meetings are held in accessible
18 locations and provide accommodations as necessary.

19 IV. The council's duties shall include:

20 (a) Advising the district on matters relating to the education and safety of students with
21 disabilities.

22 (b) Meeting at least quarterly with district administration to participate in the planning,
23 development, and evaluation of district special education programs.

24 (c) Providing input on district policies, procedures, and practices related to special
25 education.

26 (d) Facilitating communication between parents, the school board, and the district
27 administration.

28 (e) Serving as a resource for parents, including providing information on state and
29 federal rights of students with disabilities.

30 V. The council shall receive assistance from the administration and school board as needed,
31 subject to the availability of staff and resources. The district shall ensure that the council has

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1 adequate resources to fulfill its duties, including access to meeting space, administrative support,
2 and materials necessary for effective communication with parents and the community.

3 VI. Each school district shall, with the cooperation and participation of the DSEPAC, hold at
4 least one workshop annually to review and answer questions regarding the rights of parents and
5 students with disabilities under state and federal law. The workshop shall include information on
6 the IEP process, dispute resolution options, and resources available to parents.

7 VII. The DSEPAC shall submit an annual report to the school board by July 1 of each year
8 summarizing its activities, recommendations, and any concerns raised by parents during the year.
9 This report shall be made publicly available on the district website.

10 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

**HB 121-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing local school district special education parent advisory councils.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable		

METHODOLOGY:

This bill requires school administrative units to establish a special education parent advisory council. There may be costs to develop and support councils, but it would be determined per district and based on preexisting resources. The cost to hold an annual workshop on the special education items outlined in the bill may also have a cost. Ultimately, this bill's impact on local school districts, if any, will vary from district to district.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Education