

Special Education Advisory Council Members

2021-2022



		Representation	Fulfills Majority requirement*	State Board Region/ Work	Voting Member	Address
Heath Peine * (Past Chair)	6/30/2024 (2nd Term)	Local education official	Yes	10	Yes	USD 259 Wichita 903 South Edgemoor Street Wichita, KS 67235 (620) 326-4300 hpeine@usd259.net
Jennifer King* (Chair)	6/30/2024 (2 nd Term)	Representative of public charter schools	Yes	10	Yes	1847 N. Chautauqua Wichita, KS 67214 931-980-8433 jking7@usd259.net
Barney Pontious	6/30/2024 (1stTerm)	Parent of an exceptional child ages birth through 26 years	Yes	9	Yes	USD 101 Erie Elementary 620-778-3862 bpontious@usd101.com
Matthew Ramsey	6/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Representative of institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel	No	Work/6 Home/6	Yes	937 Santa Fe Street Atchison, KS 66002 913-360-3382 mramsey@benedictine.edu
Whitney George	6/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Teacher (general education)	Yes	Work/6 Home/6	Yes	3131 Ella Lane Manhattan, KS 66502 620-391-2165 whitneyg@usd383.org
Lena Kisner	6/30/2024 (1st Term)	Administrator of program for exceptional children	Yes	7	Yes	RCEC Interlocal 510 District Office 620-665-8997 Kisner14@gmail.com
Michelle Warner	6/30/2024 (1st Term)	Representative from state agency responsible for foster care of children	Yes	4	Yes	Department for Children and Families 555 S Kansas 4th Floor, Topeka, KS 66603 Michelle.Warner@ks.gov
Paul Buck	6/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Individual with a disability	Yes	Work/9 Home/9	Yes	211 W Elm St. Sedan, KS 67361 620-216-0007 paul@paulbucklaw.com

Council Member	Appointment Expires	Representation	Fulfills Majority requirement*	State Board Region / Work	Voting Member	Address
Dr. Troy Pitsch	6/30/2022 (1 st Term)	Local education official who carries out activities under the federal McKinney-Vento homeless education act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.	Yes	Work/1 Home/ MO	Yes	USD 500 KCK troy.pitsch@kckps.org
Laura Thompson *	6/30/2023 (2 nd Term)	Representative of other state agency involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children	Yes	Work/7 Home/ 6	Yes	123 N. Eisenhower Junction City, KS 66441 785-717-4334 laurathompson@usd475.org
Amy Wagoner	6/30/2022 (1 st Term)	Representative of private schools	No	Work/7 Home/ 7	Yes	Holy Cross Catholic School 2633 Independence Road, Hutchinson, KS 67502 (620) 665-6168 awagoner@holycross-hutch.com
Kari Wallace*	6/30/2022 (1 st Term)	Representative of a vocational, community or business organization, concerned with the provision of transition services to children with disabilities	Yes	9	Yes	PO Box 466 Lebo, KS 66856 (620) 340-3813 Kari.wallace@usd253.net
Rebecca (Becci) Werner	6/30/2022 (2 nd Term)	Administrator of program for exceptional children	No	Work/8 Home/ 7	Yes	USD 259 Wichita 903 S Edgemoor Wichita, KS 67218 316-973-4438 rwerner@usd259.net
Rebecca Shultz	6/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Individual with a disability	Yes	2	Yes	2909 W. 94 th Street Leawood, KS 66206 913-424-8067 rebeccaschultz@smsd.org

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Jennifer Kucinski*	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	Representative of other state agency involved in the financing or delivery of related services to exceptional children	Yes	3	Yes	16100 W. 141st Street, Olathe, KS 66062 913-227-4349 jkucinski@kssdb.org
Trisha Backman	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	Representative from the state juvenile corrections agency	No	4	Yes	Lawrence Gardner High School Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex 1440 NW 25 th St. Topeka, KS 66618 785-746-7266
Sabrina Rishel	6/30/2024 (1 st Term)	Parent of a gifted child	Yes	5	Yes	Alternative Center - Therapeutic Education Program 620-521-4555 Srishel@gckschools.com
Marvin Miller	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	Teacher (special education)	Yes	Work/10 Home/ Wichita	Yes	10808 W. Harvest Lane Wichita, KS 67212 316-765-3145 mjmillier@abilityed.com
Jennifer Kurth	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	Representative of institution of higher education that prepares special education and related services personnel	No	Work/1 Home/ 1	Yes	University of Kansas Lawrence, KS 785.864.4954 jkurth@ku.edu
Tobias D Wood	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	State Agency official		4	Yes	9400 SW Hoch Rd Auburn, KS 66402 785-302-0584 twood@ksbor.org
Brandon Gay	7/1/2020-6/30/2023 (1 st Term)	Representative from the state adult corrections agency	No	5	Yes	Colby Community College brandon.gay@colbycc.edu

Council Member	Appointment Expires	Representation	Fulfills Majority requirement*	State Board Region / Work	Voting Member	Address
Lesli Girard	ex officio	Official Parent Training and Information Center for Kansas			No	Families Together, Inc. 5611 SW Barrington Court South, Suite 120 Topeka, KS 66614 (785) 233-4777 lesli@famieliestogetherinc.org
Jim McNiece	ex officio	Kansas State Board of Education		10	No	1213 Manchester Court Wichita, KS 67212 jmcniece@ksde.org
Rocky Nichols/ Mike Burgess	ex officio	Official Protection and Advocacy System for Kansas			No	rocky@drckansas.org mike@drckansas.org
	ex officio	Senate Education Chair or Designee			No	
	ex officio	House Education Chair or Designee			No	

* These representatives fulfill the requirement in K.S.A. 72-3408 (b)(2) that a majority of Council members be individuals with disabilities or parents of children with disabilities ages birth through 26.