

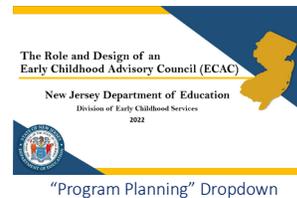
## VIDEO 8: The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)



### New Jersey Preschool Expansion Webinar Series: The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)



In this video, we'll discuss the Early Childhood Advisory Council, which you'll typically need to address in the Community Collaboration and Family Engagement section of the New Jersey Department of Education's application for Preschool Education Aid.



DECS Preschool Website:  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/earlychildhood/preschool/>  
NJDOE Administrative Code Website:  
<https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/index.shtml>

Each district receiving Preschool Education Aid (or PEA) is required to convene an Early Childhood Advisory Council. We'll give you a brief overview in this video, but to fully understand the NJDOE's requirements for the ECAC, you should familiarize yourself with two documents:

- The first is the preschool chapter of administrative code, which is 6A:13A Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs. There are several references to the ECAC in code that you'll need to know about.
- Second is the Preschool Program Implementation Guidelines, which also refer to requirements for the ECAC.

The NJDOE also has a PowerPoint presentation that you can review on the DECS website under the "Program Planning" dropdown.



Complete the ECAC Membership Roster table below by listing the proposed members. Include the name, title and organization, family members, and other stakeholders. Specify the leaders of the Council. Stakeholders may include community institutions, local businesses, community colleges, houses of worship, health agencies, and others. If necessary, add additional rows to the table. Additionally, indicate the grade band that parents will represent (e.g., preschool, kindergarten).

ECAC Membership Roster

| Name | Title and Organization | Indicate if LEA Employee or Stakeholder |
|------|------------------------|---|
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The Early Childhood Advisory Council, or ECAC, is a group of community stakeholders with backgrounds relevant to the education and welfare of children in preschool through grade three that is convened by the school district. This group meets at least quarterly and is led by the district’s Community and Parent Involvement Specialist or CPIS and an elected co-chair. The district must periodically conduct a district-wide assessment of community needs and resources and the results of that needs assessment should drive the goals of the ECAC. As you can see on this slide, the application typically requires you to provide a list of the individuals the district plans to include in the ECAC.

There should be a few key school district members included on the ECAC, including teacher and administrator representatives. It is also important to include parents on the ECAC, and to schedule meetings at times to allow their participation. Regardless of whether the district is collaborating with any Head Start or child care providers, they should also be included on the ECAC as community stakeholders.

But, as mentioned earlier, the majority of the members should be community representatives including individuals from local health/social service agencies, early intervention, higher education, local government, religious organizations, philanthropic organizations, advocates, medical/dental services, and local business owners. The make-up of the group will vary from district to district but be sure to include as many relevant partners as possible.



You’ve reached the end  
 The Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC)

Video Library:  
<https://nieer.org/new-jersey-preschool-expansion-webinar-series>

This brings our video on the Early Childhood Advisory Council to a close. Again, the PEA application will likely require you to address the Early Childhood Advisory Council in a broader section on Community Collaboration and Family Engagement, so be sure

to check out our companion video on that section as well. Also, for information on the other sections of the PEA application, see our library of other videos on a variety of useful topics.