

Palisades Park Schools Early Childhood Advisory Council

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[NJ Department Of Education](#)

Definition: ECAC

Early Childhood Advisory Council or “ECAC” means an advisory group of community stakeholders interested in the education and welfare of children in preschool through grade three that is convened by the school district (*N.J.A.C.6A:13A-1.2*).

ECAC Purpose & Applicability

As required under *N.J.A.C.6A:13A-4.6*, the district board of education shall establish a preschool through grade three early childhood advisory council (ECAC) to review preschool program implementation of high-quality programs, serve as advisory support for the local school district's preschool program, and support transition as children move from preschool through grade three.

Who Are the Stakeholders?

- School district personnel
- Parents
- Community stakeholders
- District community parent involvement specialist (CPIS)
- Local health/social service agencies
- Early intervention services
- Business community
- Medical and dental services
- Houses of worship
- Preschool, Kindergarten/1st grade teacher(s)

Suggested Responsibilities

- Participate in obtaining specific community needs and resources, including facilities, as they pertain to the implementation of high-quality preschool services.
- Serve as the conduit between community needs and resources.
- Developing and implementing Sub Committees to address the community needs.
- The Community Engagement Committee: This Committee would be responsible for engaging the community at large and sharing program accomplishments through social media vehicles.
- The Needs Assessment Committee: This Committee helps to generate survey items, supports data collection and analyzes results

Community Needs Assessment

Districts should periodically conduct district-wide assessment of community needs and resources(N.J.A.C.6A:83.4(d)) in order for the ECAC to be productive, relevant and understand the issues and needs that affect the early childhood program. The CNA can serve as a springboard for which the ECAC can plan their participatory work focusing on prioritizing identified needs and available resources. The assessment can include a variety of sources including but not limited to an analysis of census data, surveys of the entire preschool community and focus groups reports.

Our CNA Results

Community Needs Assessment 22-23

Our Findings:

- School should provide more opportunities for bilingual parents to learn the English language.
- Parents want to learn more about resources in the community such as food pantries and healthcare programs.
- Most parents get their information from social media, library and Class Dojo.
- Many students participate in local sports programs but not in library programs.
- Parents want to see more town provided activities/community center.
- Therapeutic resources including speech/language services and/or mental health services [Bergen Resources](#)

Let's Brainstorm! What's Next?

Parent Feedback: