

**Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish**  
**2024-2025 Annual Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) Report**



**May 2025**

### What is the purpose of Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish’s Special Education Advisory Council?

R.S. 17:1944 requires local public school systems to create a special education advisory council to provide advice and feedback regarding special education policies, procedures, and resources. The council shall also engage in outreach activities to the community at large to increase the level of knowledge, support, and collaboration with respect to special education.

The mission of Athlos Academy SEAC is to provide high-quality educational opportunities for the whole child, focusing on Prepared Mind, Healthy Body, and Performance Character. This approach aims to prepare students for both academic success and lifelong achievements. The school cultivates a culture that celebrates academic achievements, fosters individual growth in athleticism and character, and promotes family engagement, making it a school for all students

### Members and Roles

Member	Role
Rosy Cora	Parent
Dana Hamdan	Parent
Tonya Thomas	Parent
Danvel Hooker	Parent
Malisa Gilds (chair)	Director of ESS
Joannie Sparks (co-chair)	School Social Worker
Latoya Miller	Community Stakeholder
Alana Noel	Teacher (and parent)

### 2024-2025 Meetings, Agendas, Minutes

December 12, 2025 at 4pm	979 Behrman HWY Terrytown, LA	<a href="#">Agendas and Minutes</a>
April 8, 2025 4pm	979 Behrman HWY Terrytown, LA	
April 26, 2025 10am	979 Behrman HWY Terrytown, LA	

Meeting reminder notices were sent via email to Council Members 14 days prior to each meeting, 7 days prior to each meeting, and 1 day prior to each meeting. Quorum was met at the initial meeting. The following two meetings had low attendance.

### Executive Summary

1. Overview of special education at Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish

- a. On the 2023–2024 LEAP Statewide Assessment, the subgroup of students with disabilities at Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish earned a School Performance Score (SPS) of 41.3 and a Progress Index score of 73.2.

These results indicate that while overall performance remains below grade-level expectations, students with disabilities are demonstrating meaningful academic growth. The elevated Progress Index reflects the school's efforts to provide targeted interventions, specialized instruction, and inclusive supports.

However, the data also highlights a continued need for intensive academic support and systems-level alignment to accelerate learning. Ongoing focus on high-leverage instructional strategies, consistent progress monitoring, and collaborative IEP implementation will be essential to sustaining and expanding this growth trajectory.

In addition to general education assessments, a subset of students with significant cognitive disabilities participated in the LEAP Connect alternate assessment. The majority of these students scored *At Goal* or *Above Goal* in both Math and Reading, which is a strong indicator of the high-quality instruction and individualized supports they are receiving. This performance reflects the dedication of special education teachers, support staff, and service providers in delivering aligned, accessible instruction that meets students where they are and helps them achieve meaningful academic progress.

- b. Overview of special education financial data: Athlos Academy received a combined total of \$259,388 in IDEA funding for the 24/25 school year.

## 2. Compliance violations

AAJP had zero compliance violations for the 24/25 school year. A BESE site visit produced zero negative findings. AAJP completed a self-audit of programs which resulted in zero negative findings. AAJP completed a review of records for students who are eligible for the alternate assessment due to exceeding the 1% district-wide cap. All files reviewed indicated students were accurately identified following federal and state guidelines.

## 3. Highlights and Accomplishments of the Council

The Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) continued to serve as a vital bridge between families, educators, and the broader community. During this reporting period, the Council:

- **Facilitated open dialogue** between families and school leadership, ensuring that parent perspectives were actively considered in the development and review of special education programs.
- **Reviewed and provided input** on the school's special education policies and procedures, including implementation of inclusive practices and behavior intervention supports.

- **Collaborated with staff** to identify areas for growth in service delivery and proposed actionable recommendations to strengthen supports for students with IEPs.
- **Increased transparency** by participating in data reviews regarding academic outcomes and discipline trends for students with disabilities.
- **Helped host the council's Second Annual Autism Awareness Walk**, which offered community resources for families of students with disabilities.

The Council's collective advocacy and insight contributed to measurable improvements in communication, inclusion practices, and stakeholder engagement.

#### 4. Areas of Improvement, Next Steps, and Timeline of Upcoming Activities

Next year the council hopes to increase the frequency of meetings and to increase the number of Council Members. The council will begin recruitment initiatives earlier in the school year and schedule meetings monthly. The council will send out a survey to determine what meeting days/times work best for Council Members in an effort to increase Council Member attendance.

#### 5. Explain how parent engagement is encouraged throughout the school system and what activities sought to promote parent engagement.

Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish prioritizes parent partnership as a cornerstone of effective special education service delivery. Parent engagement is encouraged in several ways:

- **IEP Team Collaboration:** Parents are viewed as essential team members. Meetings are scheduled with flexibility, and staff proactively reach out to ensure families are prepared and empowered to contribute meaningfully.
- **ESS Communication Tools:** The Exceptional Student Services team sends regular emails, offers guidance on navigating special education processes, and provides office hours for questions and support.
- **Family Events and Celebrations:** Events like Family Night and school-wide showcase nights offer opportunities for families to connect with staff, celebrate student success, and learn about available supports.
- **Advisory Council Participation:** Parents are invited to serve on the Special Education Advisory Council and other school committees, reinforcing the belief that family voice is crucial in shaping equitable outcomes.

These efforts reflect Athlos' commitment to creating a welcoming and inclusive school culture where all families feel valued, informed, and engaged.

#### How to Join

Athlos Academy of Jefferson Parish will release applications for the 2025–2026 Special Education Advisory Council in the fall of 2025. The application will be advertised on the school’s website, social media platforms, and through family communication channels.

We are actively seeking to grow our council membership and encourage participation from parents, educators, and community advocates. Multiple spots will be available, and all interested stakeholders are welcome to apply.

If you or someone you know is passionate about supporting students with disabilities, we hope you’ll consider joining!

Accommodations will be provided upon request to ensure full access to the application process and council participation.

More details will be shared in the coming months.