

MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

RATIONALE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME AND ENLARGEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Middlesex County Educational Services Commission was created in the fall of 1977, in accordance with legislation enacted by the New Jersey Legislature in July, 1966 which created educational services commissions. Subsequently, in June, 2005, the State Board of Education approved a name change to the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:6:52.

The legislation defined an educational services commission as “an agency established in one or more counties for the purposes of educational research and development and providing to public school districts such educational and administrative services as may be authorized pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education”. The admonition that came with the legislation was that ESC’s would supplement the services and programs provided by local districts, but would not substitute for services that are the responsibility of local school districts.

Since its inception, MRESC has continuously provided a wide variety of education services to twenty-four (24) school districts located in Middlesex County, as well as many educational and business services to districts and municipalities throughout the state of New Jersey.

School districts and municipalities have taken advantage of the opportunity to participate in the following programs:

1. The MRESC’s six special education schools
2. The Interim Alternative Educational Program
3. The Professional Development Academy
4. The Middlesex County Academy (an alternative school)
5. Collaborative Educational Services (CES)
6. Community-Based Instruction
7. P.L. 192-193 Nonpublic School Services within a 5 county radius (including Supplementary Instruction, Speech Correction, Compensatory Education, English-as-a-Second Language, Home Instruction, Nonpublic Textbook Program and Nonpublic Technology Program, IDEA Part B Services and Charter School Services)
8. Home Instruction “as needed” by local districts
9. Child study teams and related services
10. Extended school year programs

11. Consultation services
12. Sex equity educational programs
13. Cooperative Transportation services
14. Middlesex County Diagnostic Evaluation services
15. Technology training
16. Collaborative grant program
17. Adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program
18. Transition planning
19. Non Violent Crisis Intervention Training
20. Partnerships for Children with Hearing Loss
21. Lease Purchasing
22. Cooperative Bidding
23. Arranged hourly and per diem personnel for school districts (Physical and Occupational Therapists, Child Study Team Personnel, etc.)

At the present time, the MRESC is providing services to seven-hundred seventy-one (771) school districts and municipalities in all twenty-one (21) counties throughout the State of New Jersey.

Keeping in mind that the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission is no longer only serving the needs of Middlesex County, but that we are presently meeting some of the needs of twenty additional counties, it is apparent that the present name – MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION, is an inaccurate depiction of our clientele. A change of name to THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY would better describe the clientele we serve.

Some of the advantages of changing our name would be as follows:

- . This action would broaden our marketing base.
- . The new name would more accurately reflect our client pool.
- . The name *The Educational Services Commission of New Jersey* would increase our legitimacy in approaching all counties throughout the state of New Jersey to promote Commission programs and services not offered by their ESC's or other intermediate units, such as our Professional Development Academy, Self-Assessment Assistance to Districts, Collaborative Educational and Business Services, Cooperative Bidding, Lease Purchasing, Technology Training, Cooperative Transportation and Home Instruction for school districts and municipalities.

It may be helpful to further justify our name change request to include, for your review, two important documents, i.e.:

1. Securing The Future For Our Students: 2013-2018
2. Shared Services Resource Guide: 2014-2015

These documents help to clearly identify the comprehensive nature of our state-wide programs and services.

Please understand that our request for a name change is made after considerable thought on the matter in terms of how the other ESC's may respond to this action. After such consideration, we most candidly state the following:

- . Some ESC's have not expanded the services they have previously offered.
- . Many ESC's have not diversified over the years.
- . Some ESC's have refused to make any changes.
- . Our expansion into other counties throughout the state has been solicited by these counties because the existing ESC does not offer the services which they are in need of.

We recognize that some surrounding ESC's may feel threatened by our approach and change of name, but it will be necessary for us to make clear that we are not attempting to compete with them. We want only to make services available in their counties that are not offered by other ESC's.

We have contacted our Board Attorney and found that the following steps would have to take place in order to bring about the name change:

- . A Resolution must be passed by the Board of Directors detailing the proposed name change.
- . The words "Educational Services Commission" must be included in the name.
- . The State Board of Education would be required to approve the name of the Commission, in accordance with Statute.
- . Final action would have to be taken by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting.