



AUGUST 12, 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dr. Pamela Wright

Director of Special Education

FROM THE DIRECTOR

INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATES

DEAR COLLEAGUES:

Hello and welcome back! Hope you are feeling revitalized and ready to face the excitement and challenges of a new school year. We, in the Office of Special Education (OSE) are excited to share our renewed commitment to making a difference for students with disabilities in Indiana by collaborating with schools, parents, other local, federal and state agencies and all of the offices within the Indiana Department of Education.

Our mission this year is to narrow and/or close the gaps between students with and without disabilities, not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but also in expectations and opportunities. Your mission this year (if you choose to accept it!) is to be open to a new spin on an evolved understanding of what it means to provide a free appropriate public education to students with disabilities.

Below is a link to a new form of communication from the OSE called a "Short Share." We hope you will appreciate and enjoy this alternate form of providing information. Of course, we will continue to publish this newsletter, post on Learning Connections and provide webinars as required, but the Short Shares will be, as the name implies, short, and to the point, video presentations.

<https://youtu.be/jUZHX8c-Te0>



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Office of Special Education Programs: National RDA 2016 Ranking

The OSE is pleased to announce that Indiana ranked number 2 among all states' special education programs in Results-Driven Accountability.

Office of Special Education Programs Results-Driven Accountability Rankings 2016*				
Rank	State	Total	Results	Compliance
1	Nebraska	93.34%	91.67%	95.00%
2	Indiana	90.84%	91.67%	90.00%
2	New Hampshire	90.84%	91.67%	90.00%
3	Montana	90.63%	81.25%	100.00%
4	Minnesota	89.17%	83.33%	95.00%
5	Kentucky	87.50%	75.00%	100.00%
5	Virginia	87.50%	75.00%	100.00%
6	Pennsylvania	87.09%	79.17%	95.00%
7	Florida	85.42%	70.83%	100.00%
8	Kansas	85.00%	75.00%	95.00%
8	Massachusetts	85.00%	75.00%	95.00%
8	Missouri	85.00%	75.00%	95.00%
8	South Dakota	85.00%	75.00%	95.00%
9	Iowa	84.38%	75.00%	93.75%
10	Alabama	83.34%	66.67%	100.00%
10	North Dakota	83.34%	66.67%	100.00%
10	Oklahoma	83.34%	66.67%	100.00%
10	Wisconsin	83.34%	66.67%	100.00%
11	Connecticut	82.92%	70.83%	95.00%
12	New Jersey	82.50%	75.00%	90.00%
13	Wyoming	81.95%	75.00%	87.50%
14	Illinois	81.25%	62.50%	100.00%
15	North Carolina	80.42%	70.83%	90.00%
16	Maryland	79.17%	58.33%	100.00%
17	Utah	78.75%	62.50%	95.00%
18	West Virginia	78.75%	62.50%	95.00%
19	Maine	77.92%	70.83%	85.00%
20	California	77.09%	54.17%	100.00%
20	Mississippi	77.09%	54.17%	100.00%
20	Washington	77.09%	54.17%	100.00%
21	Tennessee	77.08%	70.83%	83.33%
22	Ohio	76.67%	58.33%	95.00%
23	Delaware	76.39%	58.33%	94.44%
24	Vermont	75.70%	62.50%	88.89%
25	Arkansas	75.00%	50.00%	100.00%
25	Georgia	75.00%	50.00%	100.00%
26	South Carolina	74.59%	54.17%	95.00%
27	Texas	72.50%	50.00%	95.00%
28	Alaska	72.22%	50.00%	94.44%
29	Arizona	70.42%	45.83%	95.00%
29	New Mexico	70.42%	45.83%	95.00%
30	Rhode Island	70.00%	50.00%	90.00%
31	Hawaii	68.34%	41.67%	95.00%
31	Oregon	68.34%	41.67%	95.00%
32	Idaho	67.92%	45.83%	90.00%
33	Louisiana	66.67%	33.33%	100.00%
34	Michigan	63.34%	41.67%	85.00%
35	Colorado	61.25%	37.50%	85.00%
36	New York	60.00%	50.00%	70.00%
37	Nevada	54.38%	18.75%	90.00%

*<https://osep.grads360.org/#program/idea-part-b-profiles>

FROM THE DIRECTOR

FEDERAL SPECIAL EDUCATION GUIDANCE

Significant guidance issued over the summer reminds schools that a student may have a disability, even when the student is performing well academically.

Obligations to students with disabilities is an area of misunderstanding in schools across the nation. From 2011-2015, the OCR received over 16,000 complaints alleging disability-based discrimination in schools. ***Of these 16,000 OCR complaints, 1 in 9 involved alleged discrimination against a student with ADHD.***

Dear Colleague Letter on Obligations to Students with ADHD

On July 26, 2016, the United States Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued a Dear Colleague Letter and accompanying resource guide, reminding schools, including charter schools, of the Section 504 and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Title II obligations related to students with ADHD. OCR investigations and enforcement efforts have shown that “many students with ADHD are still experiencing academic and behavioral challenges in the educational setting, and policy guidance is needed to ensure that those students are receiving a free appropriate public education (FAPE).” (Dear Colleague Letter, p. 2)

This “significant guidance” emphasizes that it is **critical that a school not fail to evaluate a student for special education and related services when it believes the student may have ADHD.**

- This issue will review the key points of the July 26 Dear Colleague Letter. The letter identifies common problems related to identification and provision of services to students with ADHD.
- Our next issue will review the accompanying advice in “Students with ADHD and Section 504: A Resource Guide.” The resource guide provides practical advice for avoiding the common problems related to identifying and serving students with ADHD.

The full text of the letter and resource guide is available at:
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201607-504-adhd.pdf>

Takeaways from the July 26, 2016 Dear Colleague Letter

3 common problems that schools have in identifying and evaluating students, which could constitute a denial of FAPE:

- Students never being referred for, or identified by the school district as needing, an evaluation to determine whether the student has a disability and needs special education or related services.
- Students not being evaluated in a timely manner once identified as needing an evaluation; or
- School districts conducting inadequate evaluations of students. (p.2)

3 common problems that schools have with delivery of services to identified students:

- Inappropriate decisions about the regular or special education, related aids and services, or supplementary aids and services the student needs, and the appropriate setting in which to receive those services based on a misunderstanding of ADHD and the requirements of Section 504;
- Failure to distribute relevant documentation to appropriate staff; or
- Consideration of inappropriate administrative and financial burdens in selecting and providing appropriate services. (p. 2-3)

“School districts must conduct individualized evaluations of students who, because of disability, including ADHD, need or are believed to need special education or related services, and must ensure that qualified students with disabilities receive appropriate services that are based on specific needs, not cost, and not based on stereotypes or generalized misunderstanding of a disability.” OCR, Dear Colleague Letter (July 26, 2016), citing 34 C.F.R. §§ 104.3(l)(2), 104.4, 104.33-35.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Registration for free trainings through the Indiana IEPRC are now open!

Visit www.indianaieprc.org and click on the "Workshops & Events" tab. Use the menu system to view and register for trainings throughout the 2016-2017 school year related to the Indiana IEP System, IEP Processes, and Improving Local Practices.

Upcoming trainings for August and September – register soon:

- *Developing BIPS (Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion) on 8/18/16
- *Indiana IEP Walkthrough (Hilton Garden Inn – Indianapolis Northwest) on 8/22/16
- *Writing Standards-Based Goals & Measuring Progress (Hilton Garden Inn - Indianapolis Northwest) on 8/23/16
- *Utilizing Paraprofessional Support in the General Education Classroom (Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport) on 9/1/16
- *Writing Standards-Based Goals & Measuring Progress (Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville) on 9/6/16
- *Indiana IEP for Administrators (Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport) on 9/7/16
- *Advanced Reporting: Basics (Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport) on 9/7/16
- *Effective Case Conference Committee Meetings (Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville) on 9/7/16
- *Indiana IEP Walkthrough (Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, Merrillville) on 9/9/16
- *Developing BIPS (Hilton Garden Inn – Indianapolis Northwest) on 9/13/16
- *Writing Standards-Based Goals & Measuring Progress (Hilton Garden Inn - Indianapolis Northwest) on 9/15/16
- *Effective Case Conference Committee Meetings (Holiday Inn Indianapolis Airport) on 9/16/16
- *Indiana IEP Walkthrough (Hilton Garden Inn – Indianapolis Northwest) on 9/23/16

PETS Service Providers Awarded Funds

On July 22, 2016, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) announced that nine area providers had been awarded funding for the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) to students with disabilities, beginning in October 2016. Pre-Employment Transition services are a new requirement for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR), under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The awarded providers, along with various partner organizations, will provide Pre-Employment Transition services to students with disabilities throughout different geographic regions of the state, ensuring that Pre-Employment Transition services are widely available to Indiana students with disabilities. The specific services being offered include: job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on opportunities for postsecondary education, workplace readiness training and instruction in self-advocacy. The selected providers include:

Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.
Easter Seals Crossroads
New Horizons Rehabilitation
PEAK Community Services
Stone Belt ARC
Sycamore Services, Inc.
Aspire Indiana, Inc.
Bona Vista
Easter Seals Arc of North East Indiana

Did You Know?

Digital Citizenship Week

The Indiana Department of Education in collaboration with Common Sense Education will celebrate **Indiana Digital Citizenship Week September 12-16, 2016**. The celebration launches an ongoing effort to teach students how to make safe, smart, and ethical decisions in the digital world. Across Indiana, educators demonstrate a commitment to developing digital learning experiences that are accessible to students in their schools. As part of this work, we now focus our attention on building digital citizenship awareness in our learning communities. Digital Citizenship Week provides the opportunity to engage all stakeholders in conversations and activities to deepen our understanding of this vital topic. Share the pledge with your faculty, students, and families. The Toolkit provides all the resources you need to get started in forming a vision for digital citizenship to shape the new school year.

Digital Citizenship Overview:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/digital-citizenship/digital-citizenship>

Additional Resources for Digital Citizenship Week:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/elearning/digital-citizenship/>

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another Record Breaking Year for Medicaid-Participating Indiana Public School Corporations

Please join the Office of Special Education in a “woo hoo!” for the 160 Indiana public school corporations that chose to recover more than \$12.1 million in Medicaid reimbursements for covered IEP-required direct medical services in State Fiscal Year 2016. That tops last year’s record breaker of over \$10.2 million. Over 65% of their total Medicaid reimbursements are unrestricted federal funding that these districts can reinvest in much-needed services and supports for students.

NEW! Medicaid System Access Required to Maintain State-mandated School Corporation Medicaid Provider Enrollment:

The State of Indiana’s new Medicaid Management Information System (“CoreMMIS”), which is scheduled for implementation in 2016, will require every Medicaid-enrolled provider, including each public school corporation, to create a permanent, unique identifier and logon ID (this must be specific to the school corporation itself – it is not necessary to create a “Provider Portal” account for every school building or other location where IEP-required services are furnished by the school corporation). “The Portal” will replace Medicaid’s “Web interChange” system and will become the only means to complete Indiana Medicaid provider enrollment transactions and updates (no paper forms will be accepted). The Portal will also be the only way to access (and grant billing agent or employee access) to the school corporation’s Medicaid claims reimbursement data.

To maintain the school corporation’s statutorily required Medicaid provider enrollment (which must be “revalidated” every five years), a school administrator will need to create an account, sign in to the system and grant account access to any “delegates” such as employees or billing agent contractors. See “Medicaid’s NEW Provider Portal: Registration Instructions,” under the “Medicaid Provider Enrollment” folder at the IDOE Medicaid in Schools Community Files & Bookmarks tab in Learning Connection.

Recently enacted state law now requires every Indiana public school corporation to enroll as an Indiana Medicaid service provider – including school corporations that opt not to claim reimbursement for covered IEP-required services. I.C. 12-15-1-16

Additional information about Medicaid provider enrollment, billing and reimbursement for covered IEP-required services and school-based administrative activities is available at the IDOE School-based Medicaid web page, <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/school-based-medicaid> and the IDOE Medicaid in Schools Community on Learning Connection.

16th Edition of the *Medicaid Billing Tool Kit for IEP Services* Now Available Online

Click or paste this link into your web browser to view the latest Tool Kit update under “Manuals” at IDOE’s School-based Medicaid web page: <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/school-based-medicaid>

MEDICAID MATTERS

Recorded Webinar of 2016 Regional Summer Medicaid Info Session

Now Available

Had to miss the latest tips and updates at this summer’s Regional Medicaid Information Sessions? A link to the recorded webinar version is now available at the Medicaid IN Schools Learning Connection Community’s Files & Bookmarks tab under the “Presentations on Medicaid Claiming for School-based Services” folder. The recorded webinar is also available on the PCG InMAC Claiming Site dashboard.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



What's the Buzz???

Q and A from the OSE

The Office of Special Education (OSE) is frequently asked questions about a variety of special education topics. We assume that if one person has a question, probably many more have the same one. As always, keep those questions coming...

CHARTER SCHOOL OBLIGATIONS

- Q. Do all charter schools, including online charter schools, have to provide special education and related services to eligible students?**
- A. YES. Article 7 requires that public school corporations, including ALL charter schools, provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to eligible students. 511 IAC 7-33-2(a)
- Q. Do charter schools have to provide transportation to students with disabilities?**
- A. THAT DEPENDS. If the charter school makes transportation services available to all students, it must provide those services to students with disabilities. If the charter school does not generally offer transportation, it does not have a duty to provide transportation to students with disabilities UNLESS the case conference committee (CCC) has determined that transportation services are required, as a *related service*, for the student to benefit from special education. 511 IAC 7-43-1

NEW HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

- Q. I've heard that there are new diploma requirements. Can you explain how these new requirements impact the delivery of special education services?**
- A. **HEA 1219** became effective on July 1, 2016. The bill made two revisions to high school graduation requirements:
- All high schools must offer students the opportunity to earn any type of state diploma approved by the State Board of Education; and
 - A school corporation cannot require a student with a disability to complete locally required credits that exceed state credit requirements to receive a diploma unless otherwise required as part of the student's individualized education program.

If you have additional questions regarding the new graduation requirements, please contact Jenny Berry at jberry@doe.in.gov.

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Monthly Webinar Series

www.projectsuccessindiana.com

Content Connectors 101

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH 3:30-4:30PM EST

SIGN UP TODAY: [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/CCONNECTORS101](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/cconnectors101)

Webinar will review the Content Connectors, grades 3-10 and introduce the newly developed, K-2 Content Connectors. Learn where to access standards, how to read and understand the skills within the standards and best practice for implementing Content Connectors to guide instruction. Webinar will be tailored for teachers and administrators.

Para-Educator's Guide to Project SUCCESS

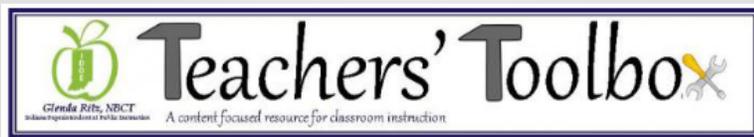
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH 2:00-3:00PM EST

SIGN UP TODAY: [HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/PEPROJECTSUCCESS](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/peprojectsuccess)

Webinar will be tailored for para educators and support staff working with students with significant needs. Para Educators will be introduced to the no-cost Indiana Resource Center- Project SUCCESS, the Content Connectors, academic vocabulary, Project SUCCESS teaching resources and best practice for the classroom.

MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the Teacher's Tool Box: Teachers' Toolbox is a content focused resource for classroom instruction. The Toolbox is separated by contents and levels; each content specialist has the opportunity to provide classroom resources, strategies, and updates. Starting in May, there was a page added focused on Instruction & Access for All. Be sure to review this great resource and share with your general and special education staff.



http://www.doe.in.gov/ccr/teachers-toolbox?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

As you are planning professional development for the year or looking for online resources, please don't forget about the Indiana Resource Network (IRNs). They are comprised of centers that provide targeted, comprehensive support to schools across the state to improve teaching and learning.

<http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed/indiana-resource-network>

FROM THE DIRECTOR
**ASSESSMENT NEWS:
Proposed Timeline for 2016 Assessment Release of Data**
ISTEP+ Grades 3-8:

July 5	Release of Proficiency Roster displaying student scale scores and proficiency levels (P+, P, DNP) to corporations and schools Access to the Pearson Parent Portal begins Rescore Window opens
August 10	SBOE review and approves the mode adjustment
August 12	Rescore Window closes
September 2	Including mode adjustments and rescore results: Release of student results data files to the IDOE and corporations Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report</i> (ISR) copies via PDF for schools
September 16	Including mode adjustments and rescore results: Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report</i> (ISR) paper copies and labels for students' cumulative files Phase 2 Reports: Academic Standards Summary Report, Proficiency Grouping Report, Academic Standards Frequency Distribution, Applied Skills Frequency Distribution, Summary Files, Disaggregation Files
October 14	Including mode adjustments and rescore results: Disaggregation Summary Reports

ISTEP+ Grade 10:

August 2-3	Conduct cut score setting
August 10	SBOE review and approves the mode adjustment Report cut-score setting results to the to the State Board of Education
September 2	Data includes mode adjustments: Release of statewide summary data - percent of Pass+, Pass, Did Not Pass
September 16	Phase 2 Reports: Academic Standards Summary Report, Proficiency Grouping Report, Academic Standards Frequency Distribution, Applied Skills Frequency Distribution, Summary Files, Disaggregation Files
October 14	Including mode adjustments and rescore results: Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report</i> (ISR) paper copies via PDF for schools
October 24	Including mode adjustments and rescore results: Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report</i> (ISR) paper copies and labels for students' cumulative files

IREAD and **ISTAR** timelines continued on next page...

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Timeline for Release of 2016 Assessment Data, continued from page 7

IREAD-3

Date	Action
August 15	Published Reports in PearsonAccess^{next} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proficiency Roster • Individual Student Report • Student Data File (SDF)
August 24	Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report (ISR)</i> paper copies and labels for students' cumulative files

ISTAR Grade 3-8 and 10

Date	Action
September 6	Reports Available to Corps/Schools
September 13	Delivery of <i>Individual Student Report (ISR)</i> paper copies and labels for students' cumulative files

*Please reach out to your local Corporation/School Test Coordinator if you have any questions.

UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

Part B Federal Funding: 611, Part 2 (Includes MOE & Excess Costs) due on or beforeSeptember 15

Part B Federal Funding: CEIS (if applicable) due on or beforeSeptember 15

For Assistance at any time please contact the
 Special Education General Line: 317-232-0570
 email: specialeducation@doe.in.gov

Did You Miss the Annual New Director's Training ?

Each year, ICASE sponsors a New Special Education Director Training. This year's training was held on July 13, 2016. A copy of the presentation materials is available on Learning Connection, in the Special Education Administrators Community.