



SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

FROM THE DIRECTOR



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Director of Special Education

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

INDIANA SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATES

DEAR COLLEAGUES:

For those of you who are not aware, the Indiana Department of Ed is providing opportunities for stakeholder input into the new state plan required by the Every Student Succeeds Act, passed last December. On p. 2 of this newsletter you will find the flow chart of events that will occur prior to submission of our state plan on March 6, 2017. If you are interested in providing input into the state plan, feel free to attend one of the listening tours scheduled this fall or go to the DOE website at <http://www.doe.in.gov/essa> to share your views.

For those of us invested in students with disabilities receiving an appropriate education, ESSA has clearly articulated the link between general and special education and emphasized the importance of providing all students access to the general education curriculum. The curriculum must be based on challenging academic content standards that apply to all students.

The question becomes, how do schools operationalize this expectation? Here are a few suggestions:

- Start with a belief in the capabilities of all students. After all, the majority of students with disabilities have average or above intelligence. They may have a disability but their capacity to comprehend, think critically, and problem solve is comparable to the majority of their peers.
- Identify the barriers to accessing the general education curriculum both caused by the disability and not.
- Reduce or eliminate the barriers not caused by the disability through intensive intervention.
- Reduce or eliminate the barriers caused by the disability by providing specially designed instruction.
- Remember, a student’s capacity is not determined by the level of performance of their disability, but by their ability to perform despite the disability. Focus on neutralizing the disability while finding ways to capitalize on learning strengths.
- Don’t give up. Keep sorting it out, talking with colleagues, reading, researching. Even in the height of your confusion, remember the students are depending on you.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

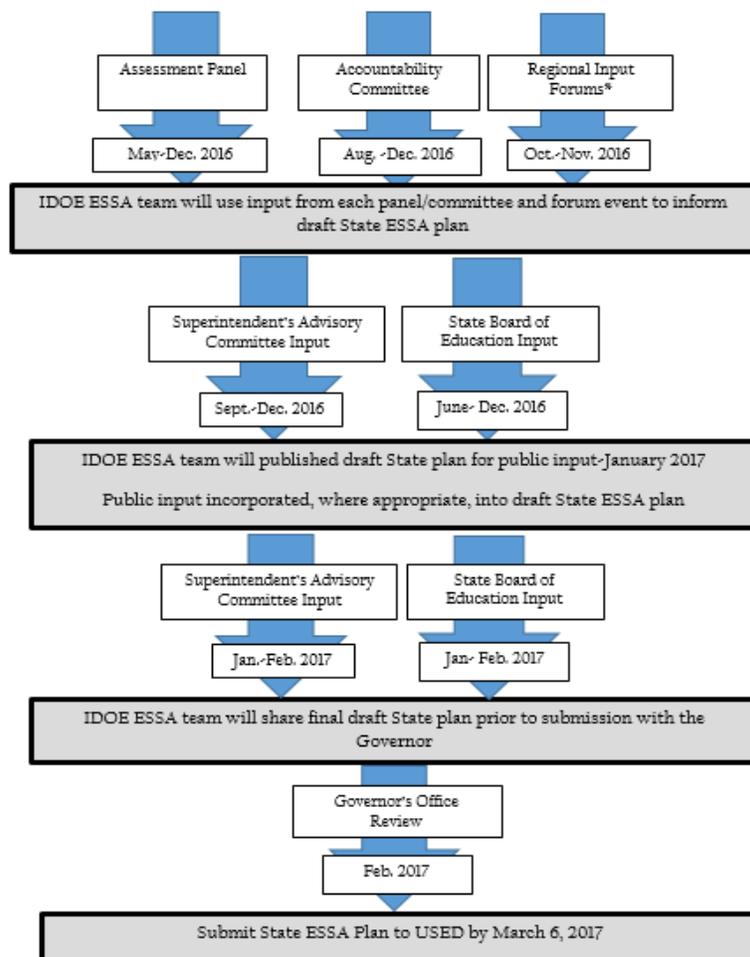
The Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan

Consultation and Coordination in Indiana



In Indiana Every Student CAN Succeed, and through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) we will prepare a state plan that showcases how Indiana will improve schools by focusing on providing a student centered education system of equity and high-quality.

The path to creating the Indiana ESSA plan includes timely and meaningful engagement with multiple stakeholders. Below is a visual layout of input the Indiana Department of Education will utilize for the development of its consolidated State plan. Multiple secondary opportunities for input and engagement exist through subject matter specific advisory committees, as well as 24/7 input via our ESSA website and ESSA feedback tool.



Members for Accountability Committee, Assessment Panel, IDOE ESSA team, Superintendent's Advisory Committee can be found on the Indiana Department of Education ESSA site at <http://www.doe.in.gov/essa>.

*Regional Forum dates and locations listed at <http://www.doe.in.gov/essa>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

New Indiana Voting Rights Guide

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities and Indiana Disability Rights are distributing "Your Vote is Your Voice," a very informative booklet for voters who have disabilities. If you have voters or soon-to-be voters in your classrooms, it's a must have!

The new guide contains step-by-step directions on how to register and vote in Indiana, but it also includes:

- An Indiana voters' Bill of Rights
 - Information on accessibility and on using an assistant at the polls
 - A glossary of terms related to elections (e.g., "earmark," "incumbent," "flip-flopping")
- Information on how to stay informed

To download a copy or order FREE copies of "Your Vote is Your Voice," go to the Governor's Council website at <http://www.in.gov/gpcpd/2519.htm>.

NEW Medicaid Requirements Take Effect Oct 17, 2016

Nondiscrimination Compliance

Last week the Indiana Medicaid agency issued a provider bulletin requiring all Indiana Health Coverage Programs providers to take specific actions by October 17, 2016 to demonstrate compliance with federal nondiscrimination requirements. **These requirements apply to all Medicaid-participating providers, including school corporations** and include prominently posting a notice of nondiscrimination compliance (sample available from Department of Health and Human Services) as well as including taglines in published materials regarding availability of language assistance services. **A copy of this IHCP bulletin is accessible online at the IDOE Medicaid in Schools Learning Connection Community Files and Bookmarks tab under "Effective Oct 17, 2016: Medicaid Nondiscrimination Compliance Requirements."**

Direct any questions concerning these requirements or information contained in the bulletin to Indiana Health Coverage Programs Provider Assistance: 1-800-577-1278.

Practical News You Can Use

DISPROPORTIONALITY DATA

IDOE monitors disproportionality for Indicators 4, 9, 10 and Significant Disproportionality. We contract with the Equity Project at IU to do the data calculations. The most current data is now available at the Equity in Indiana web site. It shows three years of data for almost 400 LEAs:

- ◆ Disability/placement: 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016
- ◆ Discipline: 2012-2013, 2013-2014, and 2014-2015

The new URL for this website is: <http://indiana.edu/~eiidata/>. If you access the old one (<http://indiana.edu/~testdata/>) you will be automatically redirected to the new URL. A LEA-specific password was sent to each Special Education Director. There were some problems with the mail merge and some Directors did not receive the correct password. If you have any questions about your data, if you did not receive the email and/or if your password did not work please feel free to contact Kristan Sievers-Coffer, ksievers@doe.in.gov.

INSOURCE Interpreter Training Program Receives Endorsement

In August, the Indiana Bicentennial Commission endorsed the "Special Education Interpreter Training" as a Bicentennial Legacy Project. Programs endorsed by the committee need to meet certain criteria, one of which was "being culturally inclusive."

For more information about the bicentennial and the project, visit the Indiana Bicentennial Commission's website at <http://www.in.gov/ibc/>.

Congratulations to Jane Fuentes and the bilingual team for this exciting achievement!

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Office of Special Education

Short Share #3

In third short share...

Both the November 2015 Dear Colleague Letter and ESSA emphasize the importance of equity and access when striving to improve outcomes for ALL students, including those with disabilities. In this third Short Share video, we look deeper at equity and access, the core of the conceptual framework. Please click here to view our entire short shares: <http://www.doe.in.gov/specialed>.

Short Share #1 can be found here: <https://youtu.be/jUZHx8c-Te0>.

Share #2 (Equity and Access) can be found here: <https://youtu.be/-BRRW4XrhBE>.

ICASE Fall Conferences

The Fall ICASE (Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education) Conference will be held October 5-7 at the Sheraton Hotel and Suites, Keystone at the Crossing.

There is still time to register at:

<http://www.icasel.org/event-2312017/Registration>

There will also be a **New Directors and Administrators session** on October 5, 2016 from 2:30 P.M. –5:00 P.M.

To register for the New Directors and Administrators session email Peg Murphy at mrmurphy@avon-schools.org

If you have any questions about the ICASE Fall Conference please call ICASE Central Office at (317)-610-5997

SEEC (Special Education Excess Costs) News

Be looking for monthly hints and tips related to Special Education Excess Costs (SEEC) in future issues. This month we announce that we've stopped using student names in 2 key documents: contracts and invoices. Contracts, invoices, approval letters, and applications will be tracked by an "application number", assigned by us upon receipt of an application. When completing INVOICES—which must have unique numbers—you can use the first letters of first, middle, and last names, along with a number that changes on each invoice.

Questions? Call Trennie at 317-232-0585.

UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

Part B FY2015 Grant closes (last day to submit modifications)	September 30
ICASE New Directors and Administrators Day	October 5
ICASE Fall Conference	October 5-7

For Assistance at any time please contact the Special Education General Line: 317-232-0570

email: specialeducation@doe.in.gov