FROM THE DIRECTOR

INDIANA OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATES

Dear Colleagues,

If You Are Working On Something That You Really Care About,
You Don’t Have To Be Pushed.
The Vision Pulls You.
-Steve Jobs

Results Driven Accountability (RDA) grades began to roll out to Indiana schools this week (see more about this topic on page 2). I thought I would start the newsletter with a positive quote since the release of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and RDA grades to all schools might have a negative connotation for those of you out in the field.

I see the release of these results as an impetus for continued change. Schools and districts can embrace these grades, and as a collective team, work toward making the positive changes needed to increase equitable learning opportunities for each and every learner. As Steve Jobs states in his quote, you don’t have to be pushed, the vision pulls you. As a parent, teacher or administrator...if you believe all students can learn, you will do all things possible to reach that goal. I encourage you to view your RDA results as a goal post to help you determine where you are in your journey to facilitate all students realizing maximum personal achievement.

The Office of Special Education has the vision that all students can succeed regardless of their disability. We are hopeful that educators across the state—including both special education and general education teachers—are being pulled into this vision as well.

Stay Warm!
Dr. Nancy J. Holsapple
Results Driven Accountability

As many of you may know, Indiana is transitioning to a new monitoring system for Special Education. Results Driven Accountability and differentiated support (RDA) is a way for the Office of Special Education (OSE) to obtain a comprehensive overview of each district’s program and how students with disabilities are performing and gaining equitable access to grade level curriculum. This video is the newest in our Short Share series and explains some of the details in how the new determinations will be calculated and released. Please don’t hesitate to reach out as we make the transition to RDA.

Click here to view the new short share video on RDA. Thank you for all you do for the students of our state!

On November 27, the OSE sent out RDA Determinations for the first time. We created a guidance document that will walk you through our RDA Process as well as help you to decipher the matrices you received. This link will take you directly to that document.

If you have further questions, please contact Sarah Larrison at slarrison@doe.in.gov.
High School:

ISTEP+ Grade 10 and ISTEP+ ECA Winter Retest Window is Now Open
The ISTEP+ Grade 10 Winter Retest window is open November 12 - December 11. The Indiana Online Testing Guide, Test Administrator Refresher Training recording, and other helpful resources can be found in the Indiana Resource Center.

ISTEP+ Grade 10 and ISTEP+ ECA Clarification Memo
The Office of Student Assessment offers the following guidance about the necessity of Test Administration Windows to meet GQE requirements.

ILEARN:

Print-on-Demand Accommodation
This memo provides guidance for CTCs/STCs, building administrators, and special education staff regarding the print-on-demand accommodation available through AIR’s testing platform. Please review and contact Karen Stein (kstein@doe.in.gov) with any questions.

ILEARN Scheduling & Timing Guidance – Addendum Available
This addendum contains responses to the most common questions and scenarios our office received from corporations and schools related to the October 1 release of the ILEARN Scheduling & Timing Guidance. This addendum is posted on the ILEARN “Program-Specific Policy and Guidance” webpage. We appreciate all your feedback! Contact our office INassessments@doe.in.gov with any questions.

I AM:

Understanding and Using Item Specifications Moodle
Want to know more about item specifications and how they can be used in the classroom? Complete the Understanding and Using Item Specifications Moodle found here. Educators can earn PGPs upon completion.

Paper Response Options
The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) requested corporation feedback earlier this year about the use of paper response options. Several corporations preferred the test booklets similar to those provided with ISTAR. Over the next few years, as the newly-developed I AM items become operational and the assessment no longer includes ISTAR items, paper response options will be available for students who are able to take the assessment online, but require paper response options. More information regarding this change can be found in this memo.

I AM FAQ
The I AM FAQ has been updated and posted to our website here.

Continued on next page
FROM THE DIRECTOR

ASSESSMENT UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Changes to I AM Blueprints and Item Specifications

IDOE made the following changes to the resources posted on the IDOE website:

- Mathematics Grade 10 Blueprint is updated to ensure alignment to one of the Content Connectors. These changes were made by an educator committee on November 7.
- Item Specification ELA_9-10.RN.2.1.a.2 is added to the grade 10 zip file. This document made it through educator review, but was omitted from the file posted on October 1.
- Item Specification Math_10_MA10.F.9.a.4 is updated to ensure alignment to one of the Content Connectors. These changes were made by an educator committee on November 7.
- Item Specifications Math_8_MA.8.DSP.2.a.1 and Math_7_MA.7.DSP.4.a.1 are updated to correct an error in the evidence statement.
- Item Specifications Math_10_MA10.DASP.2.a.2 and Math_10_MA10.DASP.3.a.1 is added to the Grade 10 zip file. These documents made it through educator review, but were omitted from the file posted on October 1.
- Several Mathematics Grade 4 Item Specifications were updated to remove the hundreds grid and multiplication chart as an accommodation. This change ensures consistency across all Item Specifications for this grade level.

WIDA:

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs Test Setup Window Opening

The WIDA AMS Test Setup window for ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will begin Monday, December 3, 2018 through Friday, March 1, 2019. During this window, you will have the ability to view students in the system as well as view and modify test sessions.

DRC System Status Webpage

The DRC System Status webpage provides real-time updates on operations of WIDA AMS, INSIGHT, the Testing Site Manager, and Educator Scoring. Educators can now subscribe to receive email updates when the status of any system changes. We encourage SEAs and LEAs to take advantage of this feature and expedite their awareness of any service interruptions impacting WIDA Screener or ACCESS for ELLs.

Assessment Literacy

Assessment Literacy Survey

An Indiana University research team is developing resources and training to assist Indiana educators with understanding, evaluating, and interpreting standardized assessments and their results. The project aims to empower educators with knowledge that will help them address questions posed by fellow educators, students, and parents about standardized assessments. This 10-minute, confidential survey will assist with this work. Please share this survey with administrators and teachers in your corporation to complete by December 17.

#INspirEDmath – Increasing engagement in the K-12 math classroom: Help Needed!

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is organizing a math extravaganza to develop a vision for ambitious instruction in the K-12 mathematics classroom! This learning day will walk participants through the eight effective teaching practices as outlined in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics’ (NCTM) publication Principles to Action (2014) in the morning followed by guided implementation and collaboration time in the afternoon. Click here to volunteer to be a host site. Please contact Robin Conti (rconti@doe.in.gov) if you would like further details.
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! This week’s Q & A focuses on use of eLearning Days.

Q: Our district is participating in the eLearning Day Program this year. We just had our first two-hour delay, and that got staff thinking about service delivery to students with disabilities on inclement weather days. Does the IDOE have any guidance regarding use of eLearning days and IEP considerations?

A: Yes. The OSE recently updated a previously released eLearning guidance document, eLearning Day Program Guidance for Students with Disabilities. It is good to think proactively about IEP considerations related to service delivery on eLearning Days. The following excerpts relate directly to this topic, but we encourage you to review and share with your staff the entire 3 page memo.

Logistics

Planning for eLearning days requires thoughtful, open, and on-going communication among administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents. The complex needs of each student must be considered when planning for students with disabilities, and individualized plans may be needed. The following is a list of topics to consider:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Physical needs</th>
<th>Communication needs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Related services</td>
<td>Assistive technology</td>
<td>Access</td>
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Individualized Education Program (IEP) Discussion and Documentation

The case conference committee (CCC) will need to discuss how the student accesses technology and how the student will access the curriculum during eLearning days. The services to be provided to the student, including a description of how the student will access the technology and curriculum, should be included in the service narrative of IEPs as appropriate. Related services that fall on eLearning days should also be considered. The following language may be a guide for documenting in the IEP the eLearning program the corporation is adopting and the specific accommodations or modifications that will be applied:

[Corporation Name] is participating in the eLearning Day Program which may be utilized on a day when school is cancelled, as a planned day, or as a makeup day when a day of school was missed. In these instances, work may be modified to meet IEP goals. Instruction will be provided to [Student’s Name] ______ through _________________.

[Suggested options: online materials, paper and pencil assignments, projects, etc.]

*IDOE recognizes there are students with complex needs for whom the eLearning Day Program may not be a feasible option, even with additional accommodations or modifications. The CCC will need to discuss and document within the IEP the agreed upon alternative plan for providing the requisite special education and related services to those students.*
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Indiana Resource Network (IRN) News

PATINS / ICAM / IERC

PATINS:
The Promoting Achievement through Technology and Instruction for All Students project (PATINS) provides professional development, technical assistance, assistive technology services, and access to assistive technology devices to ensure that both the state educational agency (SEA) and Indiana local educational agencies (LEAs) comply with the requirements of 34 CFR §300.105. PATINS maintains an extensive and up-to-date "lending library" that loans assistive technology devices, software, and resource materials at no cost to the LEA, so that they may be utilized with students with disabilities for evaluation periods. PATINS also refurbishes technology to provide to students with disabilities and to LEA classrooms where the need for technology exists.

ICAM:
The mission of PATINS' Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) is to assist Indiana's LEAs in meeting the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS) regulations of the IDEA reauthorization of 2004, by securing accessible textbooks and core curriculum materials in specialized formats in a timely manner for students with a documented print disability.

IERC:
The Indiana Educational Resource Center (IERC) is a statewide, centralized depository of specialized formats for school-age students who are blind or visually impaired enrolled in local education agencies. These formats include braille and large print instructional materials, as well as tangible aids and equipment specifically designed for use by students with visual impairments. The IERC collaborates with the PATINS Project, Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM) for the provision of services. Request for instructional materials, for school-age students who are blind or have low vision, are submitted to the ICAM by the LEA appointed Digital Right's Managers (DRM) and are processed by the IERC. All materials are provided at no cost to eligible students and are on loan to the ordering local education agencies.

In addition to the centralized, statewide depository, the IERC also houses and manages a Braille Transcription Project and oversees the Miami Accessible Media Project.

Daniel G. McNulty, State Director
Phone: (317) 333-7279
dmcnulty@patinsproject.org
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Upcoming Training Dates

Yearlong................................................................................................................. Statewide and Virtual Trainings (PATINS)
Dec. 1...........Developing Effective Interpreting Skills for Using Fingerspelling and Numbers—regional locations (PASS/PATINS)
Dec. 4................................................................................................................. Fall Indiana Training Institute @ Greenwood (PBIS)
Dec. 4.................. Avery: Recognizing the Signs & Supporting Students with Mental Health Diagnosis @ Evansville (ISMHI)
Dec. 4.................. Avery: Recognizing the Signs & Supporting Students with Mental Health Diagnosis @ Avon (ISMHI)
Dec. 7.................. Avery: Recognizing the Signs & Supporting Students with Mental Health Diagnosis @ Fort Wayne (ISMHI)
Dec. 11............ Avery: Recognizing the Signs & Supporting Students with Mental Health Diagnosis @ East Chicago (ISMHI)
Dec. 19.......................... Desautels: Implementing Brain-Aligned School Climates @ Avon (ISMHI)
Dec. 21.......................... Desautels: Implementing Brain-Aligned School Climates @ Indianapolis (ISMHI)
Jan. 8.................. Addressing the Needs of All Students Using MTSS @ Indianapolis (IEPRC)
Jan. 10.............................. Indiana IEP for Administrators @ Indianapolis (IEPRC)
Jan. 8.......................... Developing Behavior Intervention Plans @ Indianapolis (IEPRC)
Jan. 8............................ Advanced Reporting: Basics @ Indianapolis (IEPRC)
Jan. 8............................ Advanced Reporting: Problem Solving & Tools @ Indianapolis (IEPRC)

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