

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

December 22, 2017

## INDIANA OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATES

*Dear Colleagues:*

As 2017 comes to a close I would like to take a minute to recap and celebrate some of the accomplishments from the Office of Special Education this year:

The Grant Management Team established an efficient system for reviewing and approving Part B grant applications. Despite the glitches in the system, they were able to turn around the approvals in record time! Hats off to Leslie Sharp, Robin Parker, Sarah Fields, Tracy Brunner and their team lead, Jen Thompson for their hard work, patience and good humor throughout the summer and fall!

The SEEC (Excess Cost) Team has faced the challenge of limited funding with ever increasing demands. They have worked and will continue to work tirelessly with a committed group of stakeholders to problem solve and plan for the future. Robin Parker and Sarah Fields split their time between the Grant Team and the SEEC team and work with Trennie Waddell, the “Queen of Invoices,” and their fearless leader Susan Reimlinger.

The Program Monitoring Team, led by Nancy Zemaitis, has been primarily focused on revising the monitoring process from one of strictly compliance to one that emphasizes results. Kristan Sievers-Coffer, Steve Yockey, Kristy Wright and our newest member, Sarah Larrison, have continued to monitor federal indicators such as transition and evaluation timelines, while leading the implementation of new federal disproportionality regulations, ESSA changes, and the State Systemic Improvement Plan. Student Outcomes for both early learning and school age students with disabilities continues to be a priority for this team as they focus on quality instruction within the Least Restrictive Environment.

Brandon Myers, our “Data Guy” works primarily with the monitoring team and has worked closely with the Data Collection Office to revamp the Master File into a usable system. He was also instrumental in developing the grant application on-line system and assisted with allocation data verification for the Part B funds.

Our Due Process Team, made up of Stephanie Slone, Traci Tetrick, Kacie Symes, Kim Payton and led by Dana Long, has smoothed out the kinks in the ICHAMP System, taken on both Virtual Learning Policy and Medicaid Policy, managed ongoing changes to the IIEP system, and processed a record number of Complaints and Due Process Requests.

Last, but not least, our resident INSOURCE liaison, Lesa Paddack, has continued to work with countless parents and schools, assisting them in collaborating on workable solutions for serving students appropriately.

As for me, I spend most days appreciating the opportunity to work with this tremendous team and to serve the schools, students and parents within the State of Indiana. As we head into the new year, please know that we are grateful for all of the work you do with students, day in and day out. We will continue to be here supporting all of you as you strive to educate all students, particularly those with disabilities.

Happy Holidays!  
Pam



**Dr. Pamela Wright**

*Director of the Office of  
Special Education, IDOE*

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### OSE Vision Statement

*Every student, including those with disabilities, is held to high expectations and has equitable access to educational opportunities that enrich lives and prepare students for future success.*

FROM THE DIRECTOR

## FEDERAL GUIDANCE



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

\*Please review and share the following USDOE press release, issued December 7, 2017.\*

### **Department Issues New Q&A on Free Appropriate Public Education Following Supreme Court Decision**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Education today released a question-and-answer document supporting the unanimous March 2017 [U.S. Supreme Court opinion](#) on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)-related case *Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District* clarifying the scope of a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

“The Supreme Court sent a strong and unanimous message: all children must be given an opportunity to make real progress in their learning environment – they cannot simply be passed along from year to year without meaningful improvement,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos. “For too long, too many students offered IEPs were denied that chance. I firmly believe all children, especially those with disabilities, must be provided the support needed to empower them to grow and achieve ambitious goals.”

The Department issued the Q&A document to provide parents, educators and other stakeholders information on the issues addressed in *Endrew F.* and the impact of the Court’s decision.

The Q&A explains the case and provides a summary of the Court’s final decision and prior case law addressing the FAPE standard. The document also explains how FAPE is currently defined, clarifies the standard for determining FAPE and addresses how this ruling can support children with disabilities.

You can view the Q&A document here:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-endrewcase-12-07-2017.pdf>

#### **Public Comments Requested: Significant Disproportionality Data Collection**

##### **Via Annual State Part B Application**

December 27, 2017 is the deadline to submit public comments on the USDOE’s proposed change to eliminate the collection of significant disproportionality data from the State’s application for Part B funds. Review other commenters’ input and submit comments online at:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=ED-2017-ICCD-0100>

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### OSE NEWS YOU CAN USE

#### Short Share TIPS Series: UDL Lesson Plan Template

The [Office of Special Education](#) is happy to release its third video in the new Short Share TIPS series. The latest video discusses a [Universal Design for Learning \(UDL\) Lesson Plan template](#) that our [PATINS Project](#) resource center created. This video is a complement to our [UDL Short Share](#) that was released in the 2016-17 school year. We hope you enjoy it!



Updated guidance for [Developmental Delay](#) is available as a Spread the Word document. This update contains information for evaluation and eligibility determination for students ages 3-8. Please contact Kristy Wright at [kwright@doe.in.gov](mailto:kwright@doe.in.gov) or 317-232-9142 with any questions.

### SEEC UPDATE

On Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> the DOE SEEC team reconvened the stakeholder group that was formed last June in order to gather information from the field regarding next steps for the SEEC fund. Great discussion and brainstorming occurred and we are encouraged as we move forward. To further represent the field's perspective, several volunteers will be meeting with us twice a month to work on a detailed proposal for revising the SEEC system.

For the time being the emergency measures that were explained in the November 20<sup>th</sup> memo are still in place and will remain in place until further notice. Additional tweaks may be made to these measures during the work group meeting in January.

Please keep in mind, as we continue to work through this process, how important it is to get contracts signed and invoices completed and submitted in a timely manner. The timely submission of both contracts and invoices is critical to managing the entire process. Now that DOE has joined the on-line contract signature process, turnaround time on the execution of contracts will be much shorter! We are hoping invoice turnaround time will be shorter as well!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION!

**FROM THE DIRECTOR****MORE NEWS YOU CAN USE: INDICATORS****Status of Compliance on Federal Indicators for FFY 2016 (SY 16-17)**

Pursuant to federal requirements, the IDOE must annually determine a Local Education Agency's (LEA) compliance with federal indicators. If IDOE determines that an LEA is not compliant, it must issue a formal notice of findings of noncompliance to the LEA.

Letters were sent out on Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> which indicated whether a district was in compliance or not for Indicators 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, and/or 13. The report includes a description of each indicator and the source of the data. The LEA status can be found in the shaded boxes.

A 'Monitoring Workbook' will be emailed to the Special Education Planning District Director in late December. The workbook includes a root cause analysis to be completed and returned to IDOE. The root cause analysis is designed to help your LEA review data, procedures, and practices to determine what factors are contributing to the noncompliance. Once the root cause analysis is submitted to the IDOE, an Education Specialist will contact the Director to discuss the results of the analysis and provide a format for a corrective action plan to be completed. The corrective action plan must address the issue(s) discovered through the root cause analysis. An Education Specialist will also work directly with the Director throughout the year to assist in the correction of the issue(s) of noncompliance. If you have any questions about a specific indicator, please contact the Education Specialist listed below:

Kristan Sievers-Coffer	Indicators 4, 9, and 10	317.232.0595	<a href="mailto:ksievers@doe.in.gov">ksievers@doe.in.gov</a>
Sarah Larrison	Indicator 11	317-232-9186	<a href="mailto:slarrison@doe.in.gov">slarrison@doe.in.gov</a>
Kristy Wright	Indicator 12	317.232.9142	<a href="mailto:kwright@doe.in.gov">kwright@doe.in.gov</a>
Steve Yockey	Indicator 13	317.232.9065	<a href="mailto:syockey@doe.in.gov">syockey@doe.in.gov</a>

**11/30/17 Findings of Noncompliance**

LEAs (non-duplicated count) (384 total): 95			
New Findings of Noncompliance			
Indicator	# LEAs		Indicator
4A	3		11
4B	5		12
9	0		13
10	10		
Uncorrected Noncompliance (did not correct in a year):12			
Longstanding Noncompliance (Out compliance >1 year): 2			
Special Conditions: 1			
Unable to determine if findings exist or not: 20			

**FROM THE DIRECTOR****INDIANA RESOURCE NETWORK****PROJECT SUCCESS****Project SUCCESS**

[Project SUCCESS](#) is part of the [Indiana Resource Network](#) and strives to support teams of teachers and administrators in Indiana as they work to implement academic standards into instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities. Project SUCCESS provides current, research-based resources related to content standards/content connectors, instructional design, and student outcomes and is specifically designed to meet the needs of students with disabilities. They build local capacity to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities achieve increasingly higher academic outcomes and leave high school ready for post-secondary options. Project SUCCESS provides free support and technical assistance to teachers throughout the state through on-site visits, webinars, and by the dissemination of useful information via email and social media.

**Here are the upcoming training sessions currently offered by several of our IRN partners:**

2018	January 10	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Facilitating Effective Case Conference Committee Meetings @ Indianapolis
2018	January 11	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Educational Evaluation Report Feature of Indiana IEP @ Indianapolis
2018	January 11	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Processes and Considerations for Reevaluations @ Indianapolis
2018	January 12	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Indiana IEP for Administrators @ Indianapolis
2018	January 12	<a href="#">ISMHI</a>	Addressing the Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health Needs of Our Students @ Crown Point
2018	January 16	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Indiana IEP Walkthrough @ Indianapolis
2018	January 17	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Multi-Tiered System of Support @ Indianapolis
2018	January 25	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Developing Behavior Intervention Plans @ Indianapolis
2018	February 1-2	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Focus on Inclusion Conference @ Indianapolis
2018	February 2	ISMHI	Addressing the Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health Needs of Our Students-Fort Wayne
2018	February 9	ISMHI	Addressing the Social, Emotional, Behavioral Health Needs of Our Students-New Albany
2018	February 13	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Writing Standards-Aligned Goals @ Indianapolis
2018	February 15	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Advanced Reporting: The Basics of Reports and Data Collection @ Indianapolis
2018	February 16	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Developing Behavior Intervention Plans @ Merrillville
2018	February 21	<a href="#">IEPRC</a>	Writing Standards-Aligned Goals @ Merrillville

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

### ICASE Spring Conference: Registration is Now Open

The Indiana Conference of Administrators of Special Education (ICASE) has made the following information available:

#### ICASE Spring Conference

Thursday, February 15 - Friday, February 16, 2018

Keynote Speaker: Logan Weber

#### Pre-Conference

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

#### Sheraton Indianapolis Hotel

at Keystone Crossing

8787 Keystone Crossing

Indianapolis, IN 46240

Pre-Conference Only (Feb. 14) \$125 - [Click Here to Register](#)

ICASE Conference (Feb. 15-16) - [Click Here to Register](#)

#### Members:

- Early Bird Registration (Register BY Jan. 12, 2018) = **\$300**
- January 13, 2018 and after = **\$375**
- **Conference Special:** Register for both the Pre-Conference & ICASE Conference by 1/12/18 = **\$400**

#### Non-Members:

- Early Bird Registration (Register BY Jan. 12, 2018) = **\$400**
- January 13, 2018 and after = **\$475**
- **Conference Special:** Register for both the Pre-Conference & ICASE Conference before 1/12/18 = **\$500**

## UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

DOE-TL collection window for ISTEP+ and IREAD-3 Spring 2018 closes .....**December 22**

For assistance at any time please contact:  
Special Education General Call Line: 317-232-0570  
email: [specialeducation@doe.in.gov](mailto:specialeducation@doe.in.gov)