

FROM THE DIRECTOR

March 16, 2018

INDIANA OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATES

Dear Colleagues:

It's time for a quick update on some of our key initiatives. These initiatives could not have moved forward without the help of many of you, our stakeholders from the field. We thank all of you who have volunteered to help us with the following:

Virtual Learning: Three stakeholder meetings have occurred this winter to help us define the needs in our state. As many of you know, at this point there has been only limited guidance about how to serve students with disabilities who elect to participate in on-line learning. Traci Tetrick, one of our complaint investigators, is the lead specialist for this project.

IIEP: We are always striving to make this tool as efficient as possible while meeting the letter of the law. A stakeholder group, made up of many end users, was formed a year ago to help with this effort. Allowing schools to translate all of the IIEP components has been very well received and is being utilized across the state. Kacie Symes, another one of our complaint investigators, is leading this effort. Minor revisions will occur this spring with a roll out of more notable changes this summer.

Dyslexia: As many of you may know, a dyslexia bill was introduced and passed by both houses during our most recent legislative session, which ended this week. In December a task force was organized to address the need for guidance in working with students with dyslexia. The task force will begin meeting again soon as the DOE implements this new legislation. Kristy Wright and Sarah Larrison, OSE Specialists, led the first meeting. The task force is now transferring to the School Improvement Office.

SEEC: Due to increased requests for Excess Cost funding, a stakeholder group has been meeting to assist the IDOE in determining new guidelines for the use of these funds. A core group has been meeting every two weeks to assist with this task and have also agreed to review waiver requests when presented. We hope to have a new allowable cost document and application process by the end of the school year. Susan Reimlinger is our lead SEEC specialist.

RDA: In the fall, we asked for volunteers to help us redesign our monitoring system, changing it to a Results Driven Accountability (RDA) system. We hoped for 3-5 volunteers. We received over 60! A large group meeting was held in January to begin this work. Nancy Zemaitis, Assistant Director, is leading.



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

OSE NEWS YOU CAN USE

Indiana's 1% Waiver for the Cap on Participation in the Alternate Assessment

Indiana submitted a waiver request to United States Department of Education on the 1% cap on participation in alternate assessment because Indiana's participation rate in 2016-2017 was 1.2%. In this request, we identified corporations that went over 1%. In the beginning of January, the Office of Student Assessment sent an email to Corporation Test Coordinators, Special Education Directors and Superintendents of districts that **exceeded** 1% participation in the alternate assessment for the 2016-2017 school year in E/LA, math and/or science. Only districts that **exceeded** the 1% cap submitted a justification to IDOE in February. A second part of the plan was for these corporations to provide assurance that staff were trained on eligibility criteria. [This video](#) was shared in that email. Indiana must provide support and oversight to districts and are creating a stakeholder group made up of LEAs and Indiana Resource Network (IRN) directors to discuss LEA needs and IDOE/IRN next steps. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 13 from 1-3 p.m. If you are interested in participating in person at IDOE or virtually, please email Kristan at ksievers@doe.in.gov.

I-CHAMP OFFERS MORE THAN JUST DUE PROCESS FILING

Most of you know that the [I-CHAMP \(Indiana Complaints, Hearings and Mediation Process\) Portal](#) allows schools and parents to easily and efficiently file and manage complaints, mediations, and due process hearings. What you may not know is that the I-CHAMP portal also serves as a [resource collection](#) for due process guidance documents that are accessible to all users, including parents, schools, and attorneys. The following resources are available on I-CHAMP:

- Article 7
- Navigating the Course
- Procedural Safeguards and Parent Rights
- I-CHAMP Getting Started Guide for Parents
- I-CHAMP Getting Started Guide for Directors
- Submitting a Request Guide
- Filing an Appearance
- Accepting Request for Mediation
- Parent Requested Hearing Timeline
- Parent Requested Expedited Hearing Timeline
- School Requested Hearing Timeline
- School Requested Expedited Hearing Timeline

The screenshot shows the I-CHAMP portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Register' and 'Sign In' buttons. Below this is a 'User Guides & Info' section with tabs for 'Parents', 'Schools', 'Attorney', 'Hearing Timelines', and 'All'. Under the 'All' tab, there are five yellow buttons: 'I-CHAMP Getting Started Guide for Directors', 'Submitting a Request Guide', 'Accepting Request for Mediation', 'School Requested Hearing Timeline', and 'School Requested Expedited Hearing Timeline'. At the bottom, there is a 'Contact Us' section with contact information for the Office of Special Education/Due Process Team and a 'For All Other Special Education Issues' section with contact information for the Special Education team.

One of the most useful resources for special education directors is the [I-CHAMP Getting Started Guide for Directors](#). This document provides step-by-step instructions and helpful screenshots in order to help users: access I-CHAMP; register as a user; sign-in; set up a profile; and navigate through the portal.

DIRECTORS: If you have not yet registered and set up a profile using I-CHAMP, the OSE encourages you to do so.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Indiana Deaf-Blind Census: Making ALL Students Count!



*It's not too late.
Please register by
April 6, 2018.*

The Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project is a federally-funded, statewide service designed to improve the quality of education services available to Indiana's children and youth with combined vision and hearing losses (deaf-blindness). The Project provides a variety of technical assistance and training activities, as well as resources for educators and families of students who have combined vision and hearing losses.

The National Deaf-Blind Child Count is used to supplement the federal Child Count conducted by the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, which only includes children as deaf-blind when deaf-blindness is their sole disability. Since the majority of children with deaf-blindness do have additional disabilities, more detailed information is required. Many times "deaf-blind" is listed as a second or third disabling condition (or is not listed at all) on a student's IEP, and that student should still be reported in this important count.

There are many causes of deaf-blindness, and children with deaf-blindness vary greatly. A child can be eligible for our services and not be counted as deaf-blind for state reimbursement. Typical examples of this include: the student who has a vision impairment and central auditory processing disorder (CAPD); the student who is multiply disabled and also has hearing and vision impairments; or the students who is multiply disabled and functions as if he or she has hearing and vision impairments. ***It is likely that you know several children who should be reported to this project.***

Please take a few moments to go to www.INDBServices.org/Registry/ to look at the information on the deaf-blind registry and learn more about identifying students who should be reported. You will find a list of frequently asked questions and referral and reporting forms, as well as the INDBS Fact Sheet titled, "**Combined Vision and Hearing Loss: The Meaning of Deafblindness**" (<https://www.indbservices.org/images/forms/fact-sheet-cvhl-understanding-deafblindness.pdf>). In addition, students can be directly reported to this project by using the registry form at <https://www.indbservices.org/Registry/indiana-deaf-blind-registry-form.html>.

Please keep the information on the project and the deaf-blind registry in mind and share it with families as you are attending case conferences. This allows provision of technical assistance and resources for the child's family and teachers. The Project would like to be available to assist all students and their families who qualify for our services, and hopes that you will encourage them making contact. If you have questions or want further information, please call 812-237-7679 or email Lisa.Poff@indstate.edu.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

ASSESSMENT UPDATE

ISTEP+

Spring ISTEP+ Part 2: Practice Test Window opened March 5. Winter Retest: ISRs and Student Labels Arrived Monday, March 12.

ISTEP+ ECA

Winter Window: Rescore Reports Released March 16. Rescore Reports Arrive in Corp April 3.

IREAD

Spring IREAD-3: Operational Test Window March 12 - March 16.

Alternate Assessment

I AM (Indiana's Alternate Measure)

A new alternate assessment will be developed for the 2018-2019 school year and will be based on ILEARN as a model to ensure a cohesive system. It will be named I AM (Indiana's Alternate Measure). This process began with a Request for Proposal (RFP) in November of 2017. After the proposals were evaluated and reviewed, and the process completed with Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA), the proposed vendor was identified as American Institutes for Research (AIR). Educator involvement is extremely important for the next steps. Blueprints, item specifications, item development, and cut scores are all based on feedback and recommendations from educators.

HELP NEEDED! Alternate Assessment Committees

In preparation for Indiana's transition from ISTAR to the new alternate assessment, the Office of Student Assessment invites all Indiana educators interested in participating in the test development process to complete a [survey](#). Once surveys have received administrator approval, educators become eligible to participate in assessment committees. The first alternate assessment committees will take place this spring. See attached memo for more information.

ILEARN Technology Flyer

This [flyer](#) provides information about the technology requirements for Indiana's upcoming ILEARN assessments in 2019. The document notes AIR's network diagnostic tool. This tool simulates network throughput and provides technology coordinators with information regarding infrastructure.

2018-2019 Test Windows Approved

The [2018-2019 test windows](#) were approved last week.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
IRN PARTNER FOCUS**ISMHI**

**Indiana School Mental Health Initiative
Indiana Institute for Disability and Community at Indiana University**



The goal of the Indiana School Mental Health Initiative (ISMHI) is to build the capacity of the adults in schools so they can effectively support the social, emotional, behavioral, and mental health of students to foster resilience and promote the development of the whole child within existing school structures and initiatives (MTSS, PBIS, school improvement plans, etc.). In recognizing that many school districts and their community partners are doing wonderful work to advance the above, ISMHI also aims to build a community of practice so we can share best practices and resources across our state while harnessing our collective voices to eliminate barriers that do exist.

ISMHI has developed a number of resources to build a community of practice and essentially grow what they are terming a “movement” in order to promote our student and school staff’s social, emotional, and mental health:

- [Indiana Child Well-Being Data: The Case for Promoting School Mental Health \(Why Document\)](#)
- [Indiana School Mental Health: A Proposed Framework \(How Document\)](#)
- [ISMHI Mission/Vision/Values & Belief/Goals](#)

ISMHI recently partnered with the Lutheran Foundation to develop a [LookUp Website](#) to provide content related to school mental health. (See page 6 for more information on this exciting new partnership!)

Finally, ISMHI has partnered with the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) to become 1 of 8 states currently receiving targeted technical assistance from the Center for School Mental Health (CSMH) to adopt the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation System ([SHAPE System](#)). SHAPE is a free, web-based, interactive system hosted by CSMH. It was designed to integrate students’ social, emotional, and mental health supports into existing school quality improvement plans, initiatives, and frameworks, such as PBIS and MTSS, and to improve school mental health accountability, excellence, and sustainability. Support to districts and schools is provided through the [PDSA Cycle Process](#), which stands for Plan, Do, Study, Act, and is designed to provide guidance on determining targeted next steps and measuring progress as schools look to integrate social, emotional, and mental health supports and work more closely with community partners. Within this assessment, they have also recently added a Trauma Responsive Schools Implementation Assessment, as well as a Screening & Assessment Repository. Further information on this can be found below, along with two additional resources pertaining to screening and teaming that CSMH has recently developed as a result of lessons learned across the country by districts who have been using SHAPE:

- [Webinar](#) providing overview of SHAPE
- [SHAPE Flyer](#)
- [Indiana Highlight](#) (in blue)
- [School Mental Health Teaming Playbook: Best Practices & Tips from the Field](#)
- [School Mental Health Screening Playbook: Best Practices & Tips from the Field](#)

If you would like further information, please contact:

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

NEW RESOURCES



SPRING TRAININGS

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

April	12	IEPRC	Writing Standards-Aligned Goals @ Indianapolis
April	17	IEPRC	Co-Teaching @ Indianapolis
April	25	IEPRC	Multi-Tiered System of Support @ Indianapolis



LookUp Indiana Website

Partnership Expands Resources around School Mental Health

Indiana University's [Indiana School Mental Health Initiative \(ISHMI\)](#) has partnered with [The Lutheran Foundation](#) to provide online resources to support schools and community partners as they address students' social, emotional, behavioral and mental health needs.

The Lutheran Foundation's statewide website, [LookUp Indiana](#) provides information along with a resource directory of mental health provider agencies searchable by name, city, or zip code. The Indiana School Mental Health Initiative has worked with the foundation to design one aspect of the website that focuses on school-age issues. The LookUp Indiana website offers educational information in the form of videos, articles, resources, and talking points.

"The best place to proactively address the social, emotional and mental health of our children and youth is through our schools," said Christy Gauss, School Mental Health Facilitator with the Indiana School Mental Health Initiative. "We also now know through educational neuroscience research that our students' social and emotional development is essential to promoting their cognitive and academic development."

Visit the LookUp Indiana website at <https://lookupindiana.org/schools>. More topic sections and resources will be added to this website and a space for stakeholders to provide feedback is included so support staff will know how best to meet the needs of students. Please share this resource with others who you feel would be interested and provide feedback as we continue to develop this resource.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- Completed [survey](#) due for educators interested in serving on Assessment Committee.....**March 23**
- Indiana Deaf-Blind Census count due**April 6**
- Spring IREAD-3 Operational Test Window.....**March 12 –16**



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