

June 2009

Special Education Update

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Information Update

On May 18, 2009 an email was sent to all districts regarding the FINAL DETERMINATIONS for 2007-08. Districts determined to have met requirements in 2007-08 are allowed to apply up to 50% Maintenance of Effort (MOE) flexibility provisions in IDEA for the 2009-10 school year regarding the use of ARRA funds. The website in the email: www.k12.wa.us/specialed/SEDetMOE.aspx includes specific determination information on each district and templates for use in calculating MOE under a series of different scenarios. The use of ARRA funding for special education is complicated and continues to evolve. For example, the reporting requirements for these funds have not yet been released by the U.S. Department of Education and our understanding is that additional guidance from the Office of Special Education Programs will soon be available. We will post that information as soon as it becomes available and continue to caution districts to be thoughtful in their decisions regarding the budgeting and use of these funds. Districts should be mindful that MOE requirements under IDEA will still apply when ARRA funds are no longer available, and districts have until September 30, 2011 to obligate the ARRA funds. The OSPI Financial Services office issued Bulletin 31-09 on June 3, 2009, with additional ARRA information. Bulletins are posted at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2009.aspx>.

State of Washington Special Education Receives FFY 2008 Federal Determination

Each year for the past 3 years, all of the states and territories are rated by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) against 20 different indicators that are a measure of each state's performance in the area of special education. The ratings from highest to lowest are as follows: (1) meets requirements, (2) needs assistance, (3) needs intervention, and (4) needs substantial intervention. For FFY 2008 (data submitted in February 2009), Washington State achieved the highest possible rating of meets requirements. This achievement is a credit to our state, the districts, and a credit to the state staff, particularly Sandy Grummick, Jennifer Story, Leslie Pyper and Valerie Arnold who calculate, explain, present and justify the district and statewide data submitted in our annual response to OSEP each February.

Mini Grant Opportunities for Early Childhood Special Education

Three mini grant activities will be available to early childhood special education programs for the 2009-10 school year. The first activity is a \$10,000 mini grant for implementation of a "P-3 model of early childhood inclusion". The P-3 model is a comprehensive system of program alignment including early childhood education, early childhood special education and primary elementary programs. The second activity is a \$1,000 mini grant for purchase of an early childhood research-based curriculum and training to implement the curriculum. The third activity is a joint collaboration with the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children (WAEYC) that provides a small stipend for on-going technical assistance and consultation between early childhood special education teachers and community based preschool or child care providers.

All three mini grant activities will begin this fall. Applications and the scoring rubric for the P-3 mini grant will be available from ESD Early Childhood Coordinators in August. Applications for the P-3 mini grant will be due on September 30, 2009. Applications for the research-based curriculum and community provider mini grants will be due on October 15, 2009. Detailed information regarding these three mini grant activities was sent to special education directors via email on May 22, 2009. ***Districts are encouraged to review the time-sensitive requirements and begin the preliminary work necessary to apply for the mini grants this fall.*** Questions regarding early childhood special education mini grant activities should be directed to Sheila Ammons, Early Childhood Program Supervisor at Sheila.ammons@k12.wa.us or (360) 725-6075.

Evaluation and IEP Technical Assistance Module – revisions in process

The secondary transition components of the Evaluation and IEP Technical Assistance Module are currently being revised in order to align more closely with the new indicator 13 definition issued by OSEP this spring. The newly revised Module will be posted to OSPI's website by August 1st, and will be shared at the fall 2009 OSPI/WASA Special Education Workshop (August 3rd-4th). If you have any questions about the Module, please contact Jennifer Story at (360) 725-6075 or jennifer.story@k12.wa.us.

End of Year Federal Special Education Data Reports

End of year special education data reports are due soon. All of the templates can be downloaded from our website at www.k12.wa.us/specialed/forms.aspx and all are excel documents. The instructions and due dates are also located at the link referenced above. Do not modify these forms. These forms must to be downloaded before opening them up over the Internet otherwise your data will not be saved. Please email all completed forms to sandy.grummick@k12.wa.us. As forms are received and verified, a confirmation email will be sent back to the email address submitting the form either acknowledging receipt of data or asking for corrections. If you do not receive and email within 3 business days assume that your data was not received and either resend or call Sandy. **If you have no students eligible for a particular report, you may send an email stating that and be specific as to which report(s) you are referring to for documentation purposes.**

Special Education Students Suspended/Expelled DUE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 2009 (aka: the Discipline Data Report). This is **not** part of the Safe and Civil Schools EDS submission, you must submit the special education data separately. This is a 7-page form with many checks and balances built in. There are tabs along the bottom of this excel document. Click on the tabs to navigate between the forms. If your copy does not have any tabs, please click your minimize/maximize button located at the top right-hand corner of the screen of that document. Tabs should appear at this time. If you have no students who meet the criteria of this data collection you may send an email stating that, or on page 1 of this document, there is a drop box that can be used to indicate no students to report.

Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF) DUE ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 2009 - Any new entry data or exit data should be submitted. If you have no new data you may just email stating that. Please make sure you are clear as to which collection you are referring to.

Timeline for Initial Evaluation/Part C to Part B Transition DUE ON OR BEFORE JULY 15, 2009 - The calculation for the C to B data report was updated May 20, 2009 to include an additional reason for not meeting 3rd birthday timeline. This is the only change. These two collections are combined into one template. There are tabs along the bottom of this excel document. Click on the tabs to navigate between the forms. If your copy does not have any tabs, please click your minimize/maximize button located at the top right-hand corner of the screen of that document. Tabs should appear at this time. Some of the fields in this template auto-calculate and you cannot enter data into them. If the document asks you to unprotect it, you are on one of those fields. Move to the next box to enter the data and check to see if the previous field calculates the information for you.

These forms must be submitted via email to sandy.grummick@k12.wa.us on or before the due date. Submission of late or inaccurate data will impact the district's Fall 2009 determination level. Please refer to www.k12.wa.us/specialed/forms.aspx for the complete submission schedule.

Correction of Identified Non-compliance 2009-10 School Year-REPEAT

Based on current guidance from the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), OSPI is required to issue district notifications of non-compliance whenever districts do not meet the target of 100% compliance on any of the compliance indicators, even if the district met OSEP's definition of substantial compliance (95% or higher). This requirement includes districts who are not at 100% for indicators 11 (initial evaluations completed with 35 school days of parent consent) and 12 (children referred by Part C are evaluated and have an IEP in place by their 3rd birthday). This change will impact the compliance notifications that will be issued in Fall 2009, which are made based on district reports that are submitted January 2009 – July 2009, as well as any review activities (onsite visits, Safety Net, etc.) that are completed in the winter/spring of 2009. For more information regarding indicators 11 and 12, including the allowable state and federal exceptions, please see the presentation titled "Timeline for Initial Evaluation/Part C to Part B Transition" (March 17, 2008), on OSPI's website at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/present.aspx> . See also model form 5C (Agreement to Extend Evaluation Timeline) at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/forms.aspx> .

If you have additional questions about the correction of non-compliance, please contact Jennifer Story at (360) 725-6075 or jennifer.story@k12.wa.us.

2009 Summer Institutes-REPEAT

Institute Name	Location	Dates
Combined Summer Institute with a Focus on Educating Children: Autism, Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Deaf-Blind, Multiple Disabilities	Yakima	July 13-16
WA State School for the Blind Institute for Educators	Vancouver	July 26-31
Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI): Talking to Children and Youth in Crisis	Lynnwood	July 20-24
Special Education Administrators Workshop and Optional Early Childhood Day	SeaTac DoubleTree Hotel	August 3-4 Optional August 5
Effective Interventions for Children and Youth with Challenging Behaviors (Core Re-Education Principles and Practices)	Renton	August 3-7

Registration information will be located at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/profdev.aspx>.

Trainings Offered by Sound Options-REPEAT

ESD 171	Approaching Difficult Conversations	June 17
ESD 113	Leading Change in a Complex World	August 17 and 18
ESD 189	to be determined – three days	Summer 2009

Contact your ESD Special Education office for registration and logistical information.