

March 2007 Special Education Update

Stakeholders Committee Meeting

The steering committee reviewed the proposed special education revisions for the former chapter WAC 172. They made preliminary comments to word changes, definitions, ordering of the proposed regulations and state policy questions. When we have received final suggestions from the committee, we will have the state Order Typing Service (OTS) complete the final draft for publication as proposed regulations. It is our current understanding that the state will assign a new chapter: 172A for the proposed regulations. Once the draft clears OTS, we will publish the proposed rules, with a comment period and public hearings. When the comment period is closed, the Steering Committee will reconvene to review comments to complete the final rules. Hearings can not begin until thirty days after the proposed rules are published. It is anticipated that the hearings will be in late April. Written comments are also available during this time. Final regulations will be published by the end of May, with an effective date of 30 days after publication.

State Application for Special Education Personnel Development Grant

On November 27, 2006, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) published a notice in the Federal Register inviting applications for new awards for the State Personnel Development Grant (SDPG) which is due on March 27, 2007. The purpose of this grant is to assist states in reforming and improving their systems for personnel development in order to improve results for children with disabilities. In preparation of the grant, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Special Education Department has been gathering information, talking with various stakeholder groups and setting out the goals of the SPDG for the last several months. Stakeholders have provided valuable comments and suggestions that are being incorporated into the final version of the proposal. The goal of the Washington SPDG is:

To create an instruction and intervention system to improve the academic and behavioral performance of general and special education students through *Response to Intervention and Recognition and Response* (collectively referred to as RTI).

If you have any questions about this grant proposal contact Tonya Middling at (360) 725-6075 or by email at tonya.middling@k12.wa.us.

Court's Opinion Filed: SCHOOL DISTRICTS' ALLIANCE FOR ADEQUATE FUNDING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, et al., v. STATE OF WASHINGTON, et al.

The Thurston County Superior Court filed the opinion on the above named lawsuit March 1, 2007. The pdf file is posted on the Thurston County Superior Court website at:

<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/superior/Recent%20Opinions/docs/SDA%20v%20State%20Opinion%20%2003-01-07.pdf>

Revised Data Collection: Discipline Data Report

OSPI Special Education has revised the discipline data reporting template. The template and the instructions did not match so the template was fixed to reflect the instructions. The changes were very minor only the labels of 3A/4A and 3B/4B being reversed. The directions remain the same. Please download new forms for the 2006-07 reporting period. No data elements were revised or added.

Complete instructions and the corresponding data collection templates can be found on our web site at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed/forms.aspx> and scroll down the page.

Revision of School Medical Services Program (Medicaid)

On February 12, 2007, a joint memo was sent out of OSPI with the purpose to notify districts that the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA), Division of Medical Benefits and Care Management (DMBCM), intends to revise the School Medical Services Program (Medicaid) on behalf of special education eligible students, **effective September 1, 2007**. It is our understanding that DSHS/HRSA plans to modify the state plan to reflect federally required changes in the program. DSHS/HRSA will notify school districts directly of their changes and their impact on the current Medicaid reimbursement program, in the near future. **Therefore, as of September 1, 2007, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) will no longer distribute Medicaid payments to school districts on behalf of eligible students.** Payments will be remitted directly to school districts by DSHS with corresponding changes to revised billing instructions and appropriate changes to Washington Administrative Code.

OSPI strongly encourages you to correspond directly with DSHS staff regarding these changes, and the impact of the changes for school districts. In addition, we strongly encourage you to participate in any discussions and/or trainings sponsored by DSHS in this regard so that you are aware of and can plan for these changes in a timely manner. Ms. Chris Bess, School Medical Services Program Manager, will be the contact for DSHS regarding these changes. She may be reached at: (360) 725-1668 or by email at: BessCE@dshs.wa.gov.

2007 Summer Institutes/Training Opportunities

Institute/Training Name	Date	Location
Combined Summer Institute (Autism, Blind/Visually Impaired, Deaf/Hard of hearing, Early Childhood and Significant Disabilities)	July 16-19, 2007	Yakima
Life Space Crisis Intervention (LSCI): Talking to children and Youth in Crisis	July 23-27, 2007	Seattle
Effective Interventions for Children and Youth With Challenging Behaviors	August 6-10, 2007	Shoreline
Special Education Administrators Workshop	August 8-9, 2007	SeaTac
Washington State School for the Blind Summer Institute for Educators	July 22-27, 2007	Vancouver
Sound Options Training Opportunities	TBA	TBA

Annual State Application for Fiscal Year 2007

OSPI amended its annual state application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as Amended in 2004 for Federal Fiscal Year 2007. This application is now available for public comment. Please submit your comments in writing to speced@k12.wa.us, fax to 360-586-0247 or mail to the Special Education Office, OSPI, PO Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200 and refer to the Annual State Special Education Application.

This application is broken into three sections: Section I contains the submission statement. Section II contains assurances regarding the eligibility requirements for Public Law 108-446 (IDEA 2004) and it contains certifications regarding compliance with IDEA 2004 and other federal laws governing federal programs. Please note, some of the assurances are currently effective and some assurances include a date for completion of changes by June 30, 2007. Section III is a description of the use of funds under Part B of IDEA 2004.

To review the application: http://www.k12.wa.us/specialed/pubdocs/wac/federal/Wa_App_0708.pdf.

Repeat: Special Education Monitoring Visits

The third and final round of districts that will be receiving monitoring visits during the 2006-07 school year has been selected. The onsite visit schedule for this final round of districts is as follows:

District	Visit Date
Manson	May 15
Okanogan	May 15
Bridgeport	May 16
Entiat	May 16
Methow Valley	May 16
Grand Coulee Dam	May 17
Pateros	May 17
Waterville	May 17
Cascade	May 18
North River	May 22
Taholah	May 23
Winlock	May 23
Evaline	May 24
Grapeview	May 24
Lake Quinault	May 24

The full monitoring calendar for 2006-07 can be found on the OSPI website at: http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/pubdocs/monitor/Monitoring_Calendar.pdf

Repeat: Monitoring – Student-Specific Correction Summaries (Appendix A)

Districts monitored during the 2005-06 school year are reminded that all student-specific corrections and data reporting system corrections as described on Appendix A to the district’s final monitoring report must be corrected **as soon as possible**, but no later than one year from the district’s receipt of the final report. Corrections should be briefly summarized on the Appendix A report and submitted electronically to jennifer.story@k12.wa.us . Please contact 360-725-6075 if you have any questions about the Appendix A requirements.

Repeat: Monitoring – Interim Progress Reports

Districts monitored during the 2004-05 school year (districts in ESDs 101 and 114) are required to submit an Interim Progress Report to OSPI no later than August 31, 2007. This report will provide OSPI with an update on the district’s activities as identified on the Corrective Action Plan as well as a description of the most recent internal control activity for each core question identified with an issue. Templates and instructions for completing the Interim Progress Report can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/review.aspx> .

Training on the Interim Progress Reports will be provided in both regions this spring (see schedule below). Please contact 360-725-6075 if you have any questions about the Interim Progress Reports.

Region	I.P.R. Training
ESD 101	Regional Director’s Meeting Thursday, February 20 th 1:45-2:45 pm (K-20)
ESD 114	Regional Director’s Meeting

	Friday, April 27 th 9:30-10:30 (Bremerton)
--	--

Repeat: Adaptive Physical Education Workshop

The Washington Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (WAHPERD) will be sponsoring the first-ever Adapted Physical Education Workshop at Central Washington University on April 27, 2007. National Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year, Ann Griffin, will be the keynote speaker. Registration information is available online at www.wahperd.com. Cost is \$50 for the full day workshop.

Repeat: State Special Education Safety Net Committee Meeting Dates and Application Deadlines

Deadline for Receipt of Application at OSPI*	Oversight Committee Meeting Date	Meeting Location
March 16, 2007	May 9–10, 2007	Pacific Room, ESD 113
May 18, 2007	June 27–28, 2007	Pacific Room, ESD 113

***Hard copy Safety Net applications must be received at OSPI by 5 p.m. on deadline day. Faxes and electronic submissions will not be accepted.**