

May 2009 Special Education Update

Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement

The latest guidance from the US Department of Education on the use of ARRA funds was released on April 24, 2009. This document provides vital information about how ARRA funds can be used. “Framing questions” and examples of how funding might be utilized are included in this guidance to assist districts in making informed and thoughtful decisions about use of ARRA funds. Click on the document titled “Using ARRA Funds to Drive School Reform and Improvement” on the following link. Also included at this link is a slide show titled: ARRA Uses of Funds and Metrics (April 24) for further detailed information. <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html#apps>

Special Education and Related Services Teletherapy Pilot Project RFP

OSPI is providing a bidding opportunity on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a “Special Education and Related Services Teletherapy Pilot Project”. This RFP solicits proposals from firms, school districts, institutes of higher education, medical facilities, and other agencies interested in developing, implementing, and evaluating a teletherapy pilot program.

The project will provide designated special education and/or related services to students with disabilities ages three (3) through twenty-one (21) from a limited number of rural, suburban, and urban locations within Washington State. The objective is to provide speech language, occupational, and physical therapy services via point-to-point telecommunication technologies (e.g. video conferencing) in pilot public school districts that, due to unfilled personnel vacancies and/or personnel shortages, do not have the required special education therapy staff to implement services identified in Individual Education Plans (IEPs).

The entire RFP can be viewed at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/RFP>, then select the name of this RFP for the complete description. If you have specific questions about this RFP, please contact the RFP Coordinator, Lou Colwell at MaryLouise.Colwell@k12.wa.us or 360-725-6075.

It is anticipated that in August/September, OSPI will announce the opportunity for districts to apply to participate in the project as well as the criteria for eligible districts.

Medicaid Update – School Medical Services for Special Education Students Billing Instructions updated April 4, 2009

The billing instructions for medical services to special education students has been updated on the DSHS website, effective April 4, 2009 at the following link: http://fortress.wa.gov/dshs/maa/download/Billing%20Instructions%20Web%20Pages/School_Med_Svcs.html. Questions regarding this information should be directed to Chris Bess at DSHS. Chris can be reached at 360-725-1668 or bessce@dshs.wa.gov.

Release of 2009-10 IDEA-B and Section 619 Regular and Stimulus Allocations

The 2009-10 preliminary allocation tables for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Title VI-B and Section 619 (including ARRA stimulus allocations) are now available on the OSPI Special Education website at: http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/pubdocs/data/IDEA_Allocations_0910_stimulus_funds.pdf. These allocations are for budgeting purposes only and are subject to change upon receipt of the state's IDEA-B and Section 619 grants.

The allocations are calculated based on final P105A public enrollment and P105B private school enrollment reports submitted to OSPI. Timely submission of these enrollment reports is greatly appreciated, and enables our office to post allocation tables without any undue delay.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Tara Canlett at 360-725-6075 or by email at tara.canlett@k12.wa.us.

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.

Bulletin 017-09 Special Education Federal Child Count Date Change

This bulletin announces a date change for the eligibility of counting special education students. Previously, students who had a current Individualized Education Program (IEP) and evaluation as of December 1 were eligible for federal counting purposes. **As of 2009, special education students are eligible for federal counting purposes if they have a current IEP and evaluation as of November 1, 2009, or subsequently, as of the first business day of the month.** (<http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/bulletins2009.aspx>)

Timeline for Initial Evaluation of Special Education and Early Childhood Transition from Part C to Part B by Child's 3rd Birthday Reports

These two reports are due to OSPI no later than 5:00 pm. on **July 15, 2009**. Both reports are on a single template with multiple pages located at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/forms.aspx>. The Initial Evaluation Timeline Report captures data required by OSEP to be collected under the State Performance Plan, Indicator 11 (children with parental consent to evaluate, who were evaluated and eligibility determined within 35 school days of the district's receipt of parent consent). The Early Childhood Transition from Part C to Part B Report captures data required by OSEP to be collected under the State Performance Plan, Indicator 12 (children referred from Part C who were evaluated and an IEP completed by the student's third birthday).

After completing each report, **check the district's status on each indicator by reviewing the *Percent Completed On Time* box in the upper right-hand corner of each report.** The percent completed on time is auto-calculated based on the data the district entered into the report form. If the percentage is not an accurate reflection of the district's status, please review the data line by line to ensure accurate data entry prior to submittal to OSPI.

The reporting period for these data collections are July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Any templates received with red highlighted cells will be returned immediately for district correction and re-submittal. **The reports are not considered official until OSPI receives the templates without any red highlighted cells.** Submission of late or inaccurate data will impact the district's Fall 2009 determination level.

If you submit data but do not receive a confirmation email within three business days of submission, please contact Sandy Grummick at 360-725-6075 or sandy.grummick@k12.wa.us to ensure we receive your district's data. If there is a report for which you have no data to submit, please send an email naming the specific report(s) that your district has no students to count on those reports. This email must be submitted on or before the reporting due dates and emailed to sandy.grummick@k12.wa.us. **In addition to the Timeline for Initial Evaluation and Part C to Part B Transition, the Child Outcomes Summary Form (COSF) and special Education Students Suspended/Expelled data reports are also due at the end of the school year.** Please go to www.k12.wa.us/specialed/forms.aspx for the complete schedule.

School District Funding for Early Intervention Services

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document on district funding for early intervention services has been posted to the early childhood website at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/EC.aspx>. This document answers questions from the field related to the fiscal portion of providing early intervention services for children birth through two years of age. As a reminder, all school districts will be required to provide early intervention services on September 1, 2009 according to RCW 28A.155.065.

Safety Net State Oversight Committee Meeting Dates and Application Deadlines-MEETING LOCATION REVISION

Safety Net Bulletin 083-08 was published September 18, 2008 and is located at <http://www.k12.wa.us/BulletinsMemos/Bulletins2008/B083-08.doc>. This bulletin provides instructions for applying for special education safety net funding for the 2008-2009 school year. Safety net funding is available to school districts with a demonstrated need for special education funding in excess of state and federal funding otherwise provided.

Deadline for Receipt of Application at OSPI	Type of Application	Oversight Committee Meeting Date	Meeting Location
April 3, 2009	High need	June 4-5, 2009	Evergreen State College Seminar 2 D2105
May 1, 2009	Community Impact (Resubmittals Only)	June 4-5, 2009	Evergreen State College Seminar 2 D2105

Applications must be received at OSPI by 5 p.m. on deadline day. Faxes and emailed submissions will not be accepted. Directions to the Evergreen State College can be found at the following link, <http://www.evergreen.edu/tour/gethere.htm>. A link to the campus map is also located on this website.

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>.

Quality Indicators for Secondary Transition (QuIST)

QuIST are research-based indicators designed to assist school districts in assessing transition services for students with disabilities in school programs. The QuIST tool was developed jointly by OSPI and the Center for Change in Transition Services (CCTS), a Washington State Needs Project (www.seattleu.edu/ccts/). The tool was piloted by several school districts represented on Washington’s Committee of Practitioners.

By using this tool, school district teams will have a common understanding of what constitutes quality programming and best practice in secondary special education and transition. This activity will promote planning and continuous improvement in graduation and drop-out rates, transition services, transition IEP components, and post-school outcomes for students. The CCTS staff will be sharing this tool with districts in the spring and fall of 2009. In addition, the tool will be utilized as part of the Secondary Transition Self-study that will be implemented by the OSPI Program Review Team in the 2009-10 school year.

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.

2009 Post-school Follow-up Survey & Reporting Information (Center for Change in Transition Services) *Please contact the Center for Changes with any questions regarding the following information at ccts@seattleu.edu or 206-296-6494.*

Beginning with the 2009 special education leavers (graduates, youth who age out, and dropouts from the 2008-09 school year) districts will *not* be required to collect information from the final IEP regarding postsecondary goals and recommended adult agencies. Districts *will* still be required to collect the demographic information and to follow-up with the former students in December 2009 and/or January 2010.

- The 2009 Online Post-school Survey will be available during the month of May (<https://www.seattleu.edu/ccts/Survey/login.aspx>). Districts will be notified once it is available.
- Districts should identify all 2009 leavers and contact information for these youth beginning this month. CCTS' Student Demographic form (sent via email on April 8th or can be found on the CCTS website: www.seattleu.edu/ccts) is available for this activity.
- To get a list of the special education leavers (graduates, age outs, dropouts), in grades 9-12, contact the CSRS/P210 data manager for your district. For more information about identifying leavers see the 2009 FAQs that were emailed on April 8th and will also be posted on the CCTS website within the next month.

2008 Post-school Data Report (Center for Change in Transition Services) *Please contact the Center for Changes with any questions regarding the following information at ccts@seattleu.edu or 206-296-6494.*

The 2008 Post-school Data Report will be available sometime in May via the online Post-school Entry & Reporting System. CCTS will email districts when the reports become available. The new system will provide data in a variety of ways to assist districts in analyzing the outcomes in an easy and productive manner. All districts, regardless of size, will now have visual displays of their data.

Transition WorkDays and IEP Peer Review Activities (Center for Change in Transition Services) *Please contact the Center for Changes with any questions regarding the following information at ccts@seattleu.edu or 206-296-6494.*

The peer review sessions are a first-step activity for districts to begin developing an IEP peer review process. Using the Indicator 13 Checklist for Washington State, participants conducted reviews of IEPs from other districts. Contact CCTS to schedule technical assistance for your district.

Webinar Series on Reducing Disproportionality in Special Education from the Regional Resource Center Program (RRCP)-REPEAT

The Regional Resource Centers are hosting a series of Webinars on the topic of disproportionality. March Topic: Beyond Compliance. Future topics will include: Intervention, Addressing System Issues and Roles and Responsibilities for Moving Forward. Participation is Limited. Pre-registration Required. Registrants will receive connection information and instructions prior to each Webinar. If you are unable to register individually due to capacity issues, check with your ESD – they may have viewing sites set up in your area.

There will be five webinar events each lasting 1 ½ hours (10:00 am to 11:30 am):

- May 14 Addressing Systemic Issues
- May 28 Roles & Responsibilities for Moving Forward

See the attached announcement for detailed description of the sessions. You may attend any or all of the sessions. To register click on the link:

http://www.rfcnetwork.org/component/option,com_symfony_conf_reg/conf_reg.php/registration/create/conference_id,169/
For questions regarding content, contact: Kristin Reedy at kreedy@wested.org. For registration questions, contact Norma Sheehan at nsheeha@wested.org. Transcripts will be available online after each session. Check the www.rfcnetwork.org site.