Appendix A: Survey Results

Safety Net Award Results

In 2016–17, the State Safety Net Committee approved 107 LEAs for Safety Net awards. The committee awarded 2,530 high-need individual student applications, and eight community impact applications for a total of $49,642,945 (see Figure 1). State-sponsored Safety Net training was provided at the nine ESDs prior to the initial 2016–17 submission dates.

Figure 1: High-Need Individual Applications 2012–13 through 2016–17

*Includes High-Need Individual Student and Community Impact applications.
Survey Demographics

The survey was sent to superintendents, special education directors, and business managers of applicant districts. The survey included ten specific questions related to the Safety Net process and an opportunity for comments and suggestions to improve the process. A total of 108 respondents completed the survey, and 55 comments were received.

Of the 108 respondents:

- 63.89 percent identified themselves as special education administrators.
- 14.81 percent indicated they were the district superintendent or assistant superintendent.
- 18.52 percent stated they were the district business manager or business services administrator.
- 2.78 percent stated they were administrative support.

Figure 2: Percentage of Respondents by ESD

The percentage of respondents for each of the nine ESDs was as follows:
Survey Results

1. The 2016–17 Safety Net Bulletin—which outlined the process changes, application criteria, and submission deadlines—was clear. Of the respondents, 92 percent either agree or somewhat agree that the 2016–17 Safety Net Bulletin was clear. This percentage has exceeded 90 percent since the 2008–09 school year.

2. OSPI-sponsored training for the 2016–17 Safety Net process was helpful. Of the respondents, 90 percent either agree or somewhat agree that the OSPI sponsored training was helpful. This question is only intended to evaluate OSPI sponsored trainings. The percentage of respondents that either agree or somewhat agree with this question has remained above 85 percent since the 2008–09 school year.
3. The Safety Net website includes information that is helpful to my district in the Safety Net application process.

Of the respondents, 90 percent either agree or somewhat agree that information provided on the OSPI Safety Net website was helpful to them in the application process. This percentage has exceeded 90 percent every year the survey has been completed.

4. OSPI staff members are helpful to my district in the Safety Net application process.

Of the respondents, 92 percent either agree or somewhat agree that OSPI staff members are helpful to their district in the Safety Net application process. This percentage has exceeded 90 percent every year the survey has been completed.
5. The Safety Net committee members are representative of districts in our state and carefully consider the district requests for Safety Net funding.

Of the respondents, 85 percent either agree or somewhat agree that the Safety Net committee members are representative of districts in the state and carefully consider the district requests for Safety Net funding. In 2016–17, the committee consisted of 14 local directors of special education, five were local district business managers or district finance directors, and one was a district superintendent. The committee also includes one non-voting member from the State Auditor’s Office. The state director of special education serves as an ex officio, non-voting committee member and acts as the committee manager. While the percent that either agreed or somewhat agreed with this question decreased from 90 percent in 2015–16 to 85 percent in 2016–17, this question has been above 80 percent since 2010–11.
6. Although I may not always agree with the results, I was informed why my Safety Net applications were/were not funded.

Of the respondents, 84 percent either agree or somewhat agree that they were informed why their Safety Net applications were or were not funded. This percentage dropped below 85 percent for the first time since 2010–11.

7. The IEP Review Form was a helpful tool in submitting the Safety Net applications.

Of the respondents, 89 percent of the respondents either agree or somewhat agree that the IEP Review Form was a helpful tool in submitting Safety Net applications. This percentage of respondents agreeing or somewhat agreeing has remained above 85 percent since 2009–10.
8. My district’s IEPs have improved as a result of the Safety Net process.

Of the respondents, 84 percent of the respondents either agree or somewhat agree that the district’s IEPs have improved as a result of the Safety Net process. This percentage has remained above 80 percent since 2008–09.
9. Although I may not always agree with the results, I believe the Safety Net standards are uniformly applied to all districts.

Of the respondents, 72 percent agree or somewhat agree that the Safety Net process is fair and that the standards are uniformly applied to all districts. This percentage has decreased from the 2015–16 results when 86 percent agreed or somewhat agreed with this statement. There is considerable variability in and among the districts that apply for Safety Net funding. For example, of the 118 local education agencies (LEAs) that applied for Safety Net funding in 2016–17, five were non-high districts, 35 were districts with total enrollments of less than 2,000, 83 were districts with greater than 2,000 students, one was an educational service agency (ESA), and one was a charter school.
10. Being able to electronically submit my Safety Net application will be helpful to me.

Of the respondents, 90 percent either agree or somewhat agree that being able to electronically submit their Safety Net applications is helpful. This percentage has remained above 80 percent since 2010–11.