

EIMAC Spring 2008 Meeting
Special Education Subcommittee
April 22-23, 2008
Chair: Sandra McQuain, West Virginia
Chair Elect: Karen Denbroeder, Florida

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

General Statistics/Special Education Task Force Update
Sandra McQuain, West Virginia Department of Education

New race/ethnicity categories:

- states will probably be provided with the option to choose between reporting using 5 or 7 categories in the near term
- Will result in huge shifts; calculating disproportionality will become an issue

Update on State Performance Plan and Annual Performance
Ruth Ryder (OSEP)

Anticipate responses sent to states to arrive sometime in early June

Revisions to package (indicator measurement chart and instructions)

- Received lots of feedback; analyzed comments
- Within a month, package will come out for another 30 days of comments
- OMB then reviews for 30 days and it goes back to OSEP

Since reporting period is almost over, new package will provide some flexibility for states in how they report

States should comment on indicators to give NASDSE legitimacy in their complaints and comments they have submitted

- If states do not echo these concerns, the DOE will brush NASDSE off

Determinations: similar to last year; will receive response table for determinations

Discussion:

- State Performance Plan requires improvement activities
- It would be preferable to pull a small group of states together to discuss:
 - IDEA submissions.
 - Adjusting targets
- Organizational assessment—is there a methodology available?
 - What's an override? What's considered timely reporting?

Data Accountability Center: a Dialogue with OSEP and Westat

Kelly Worthington (OSEP); Lisa Holden-Pitt (OSEP); Carol Bruce (DAC, Westat); Bobbi Stettner-Eaton (USED); Joy Markowitz (DAC, Westat); Alan Coulter (DAC, LSU/HSC)

Transition of IDEA Part B 618 Data into *EDFacts*

- States can revise submission plans
- Congruency analysis of DTS vs. EDEN submissions (Bobbi Stettner-Eaton)
 - The last round of submissions is due May 15, 2008. The next opportunity to submit for congruency analysis will be November.
 - Crosswalks for Section 618 and *EDFacts* reports are available in the back of the *EDFacts* file specifications posted online.
 - Bobbi Stettner-Eaton, *EDFacts*, and Carol Bruce, Westat, are assisting states with this process.

LEA data:

Although LEA data have not previously been required, OSEP is using LEA data for profiles. The Secretary also gets two-page profiles that include LEA data as do Congressional committees. They need LEA data for these purposes.

School-level data for some submissions (e.g., child count) are required by the *EDFacts* regulations. OCR will use these data.

Section 618 – Lisa Holden-Pitt

- Revised package for preschool educational environments would have been complete already if ED was not carefully considering comments submitted last fall
- As a result of comments of data managers and others, they revised the package
 - No changes will go into effect until SY2009/10
 - Proposed changes in data collection were not shared with EIMAC before submission to OMB in order to prevent further delay in approval
 - OSEP cannot plan changes around discussions held at EIMAC, which takes place only twice a year;
 - employing a listsev, taking conference calls, and other alternative options were not considered

(following the meeting, Sandra McQuain requested OSEP (Lisa Holden-Pitt) consider having concurrent sessions at the OSEP Data Conference to provide an opportunity for review and input into the data collection and instructions).

Personnel collection:

- Will adjust definition of Highly Qualified Teacher to align with IDEA's definition

Assessment Collections: An internal group at USED is meeting weekly to discuss where are NCLB/IDEA collections alike and different.

- In places where they are different, do they have to be different? Can they be made more consistent if there's no policy issue getting in the way?
- Table 6 must be submitted as an attachment to Annual Performance Report
- Table 6 reporting requirements are not met through *EDFacts* submissions. Some data cannot be collected through their current system, but a new business tool being

implemented possibly will allow both Table 6 and Table 7 data to be collected through EDEN.

Why not complete the data rubric?

- If you use the old system and run into technical issues, you are still considered timely and accurate
- If you submit anything with an error using EDEN, you run into technical issues that require you to resubmit—does this mean you are not timely and accurate?
 - Don't worry about timely/accurate; let OSEP know of the technical issue

Data Accountability Center (DAC)

- Areas of interest: Technical assistance to states and stakeholder input
 - DAC will use “cascade” to assist/gain input
 - Listservs, meetings, conference calls, etc.
- National Advisory Group: no meetings yet; need to be further along in work scope development. Jody Fields, Arkansas, and Karen Denbroeder, Florida, have been named to this group.
 - Will solicit input on specific items, especially regarding “emerging needs”
 - Will contact stakeholders via email for ideas
 - Will ask those who are interested to join task forces
 - As national needs are identified, will move to customized technical assistance

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Special Education Subcommittee Discussions

- EDEN: possible recommendations
 - Encourage collaboration with assessment and EDEN officials
 - Inconsistency in data being collected resulting from double submissions, timing problems, etc.
 - Value IDEA and SPP and don't ignore them in favor of NCLB and CSPR;
 - Promote consistency between IDEA and ESEA (when re-authorized)
- Promote stronger working relationship between OSEP and EIMAC Special Education Task Force

Special Education Subcommittee Election Results

Bonnie Dye elected incoming Vice-Chair

Special Education Subcommittee Recommendations to the Chiefs

1. Ensure all state department offices are involved with the development of the EDEN submission plan and receive a copy of the final plan to support data governance and promote collaboration in the timely submission of data files.

2. Chiefs, individually and collectively, should contribute to the public comment on the IDEA State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report proposed changes. The EIMAC Special Education Subcommittee will draft recommendations for your consideration upon publication of the proposed changes.
3. Chiefs, individually and collectively, should contribute to the public comment on the IDEA Section 618 data collections (early childhood education environments, dispute resolution) proposed changes. The EIMAC Special Education Subcommittee will draft recommendations for your consideration upon publication of the proposed changes.
4. Chiefs are requested to reaffirm the advisory capacity of EIMAC (Special Education Subcommittee) with the Office of Special Education Programs in the early stages of development of new data collections and changes to existing collections.