



Purpose and Process

These virtual sharing sessions will help the Iowa Department of Education gather information for the next State Performance Plan (SPP). The new plan will help guide Iowa's special education services for the next six years. During these sessions, the department will share proposals related to special education services in Iowa. Participants can then comment on those proposals with feedback about what is working, what is not working, and what ideas you have for the future. The input from these sessions will be combined with input from other groups to guide the department's final planning decisions.

These sessions will last about 90 minutes. They will be closed-captioned. For any questions about these sessions, please contact ASK Resource Center by email at info@askresource.org or by calling 800-450-8667.

Background

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the federal law that authorizes special education across the United States. The IDEA requires each state to have a State Performance Plan (SPP).

Every six years, the Iowa Department of Education develops a new SPP to submit to the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). The plan has two parts: One for children age birth to 3 called "Part C", and one for children age 3 to 21 called "Part B". Each year, Iowa reports its progress on SPP goals to OSEP in their Annual Performance Report (APR).

Right now, the Iowa Department of Education is creating the next six-year plan. ASK Resource Center and the Iowa Department of Education are partnering to gather family input about the proposals in the plan.

Terminology

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): The federal law that authorizes special education across the United States.

Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP): The federal agency that oversees how IDEA is implemented at the state level.

Part C and Part B: Special Education services for children with disabilities have two categories inside federal law. They are called Part C and Part B. Part C describes the services for children between birth and 3 years of age who are at-risk for a developmental delay or who have a disability. Part B describes the services for children between the ages of 3 and 21 who have a disability.

State Performance Plan (SPP): A required state plan which describes and evaluates the state's implementation of the requirements of IDEA. It is usually a six year plan with measures known as indicators. The SPP is submitted by the state to OSEP.



Annual Performance Report (APR): A required report written each year to describe the state's performance on the targets for each indicator in the SPP for a specific timeframe. The APR is submitted by the state to OSEP.

Indicators: Items to be measured each year in the APR and compared to the goals in the SPP. There are two kinds of indicators. A "compliance indicator" is set by OSEP. A "results indicator" is set by state leaders with input from stakeholders including families.

Stakeholders: People with a stake in how well this planning works. They include families, service providers, agencies providing services (such as the area education agencies/AEAs), advocacy and/or advisory groups, service agency leaders, and state leadership.