Special Education Director’s Webinar

August 9, 2022
WELCOME
BACK TO SCHOOL
August Webinar Topics

- Welcome and State Updates
  - Wina Low, State Special Education Director
- Incarcerated Students
  - Jamila Pollard, Senior Program Manager/Legal Officer
- Prior Written Notice (PWN)
  - Jamila Pollard, Senior Program Manager/Legal Officer
- GO-IEP Updates for PWN
  - Linda Castellanos, Program Manager GO-IEP
- Budget and Grants
  - Malissa Roberts, Program Manager Budgets and Grants
- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)
  - Jeff Allen, GVRA Assistant Director of Transition Services
Family Engagement and Outreach

- Dr. LaTanya Barkley Washington, Program Manager
  - Family Engagement
  - Parent Mentor Partnership
  - Special Education Helpdesk
  - FIEP
  - Section 504 Support
New Team Members

- Andrew Britt - Budget
- Melissa Bates – Budget
- Yyanisha Bass Bonner – Instruction
- Alisha Williamson – Instruction
- Barbara Ross – RDA
- Florence Bry – RDA
- Crystal Callaway – Dispute Resolution
- Judith Beccaro – Content Integration Specialist
New Team Members

- Contract Support
  - Debbie Reagin – Instruction
- Kathy Johnson – Instruction
- Becky Conner – Instruction
- Elizabeth Anderson – Instruction
- Bruce Potts – Executive Coach
Priorities

• Increase Communication to all stakeholders
• Robust Professional Learning
• Enhance General Supervision Technical Assistance and Monitoring
• Specially Designed Instruction
  • Literacy, Math and Behavior
• Teacher/Leader Retention
• Discipline
LEAD

• **Leverage** state resources and knowledge to support districts

• **Engage** with all stakeholders and build trusting partnerships with districts

• **Align** our work and support to identified districts’ needs

• **Develop** tiered and tailored quality technical assistance, professional development, and coaching related to specific district needs based on data
Hot Topics

- Prior Written Notice
- 1% Participation Rate
  - 80% of LEAs exceed the 1%
  - Not about selecting the test, it is the curriculum
- Reactivation of GTIDs
- Certification for Special Education Teachers
- ES4PS
Continuation of Services

Key Points from this year’s data:

- There is an increase from 31 students statewide >10 days without services in FY21 to 281 students in FY22.
- There are 3 LEAs that account for 68% of the students reported.
- 67 of the students have ≥ 20 days of cessation of services, 16 of the 67 have ≥ 30 days, approximately 5 with 60 to 78 days.
- The number of LEAs required to participate in CS has almost doubled from 19 in FY21 to 31 in FY22, an increase of about 63%.
- 221 of the 281 students in the CS list were from the Black subgroup.
- 211 students of 281 are males.
- Average age of student is 14.
More than 300 registered participants

Comments:

- I plan to share the resources with the administrators in my district as well as with the special ed teachers.
- The checklists are very resourceful for helping me get the school year started.
- I will use it to better assist our SPED teachers.
- I am very excited to look at the system data and delve into the tool kits.
- I plan to present the LEA check sheet for use in our district. Thank you for sharing!
Updates from National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)

OCR will be conducting digital accessibility reviews – SEAs and LEAs.

Advocates are pushing for the reviews with OCR.

504 regulations are being opened – but no information of the intentions.

New discipline guidance just released

Main message - Don’t exclude a child from the classroom.

Teams must demonstrate multiple attempts to improve the behavior.

Burden is on the school system to shape the behavior.

Defined informal removals

Emphasis on children not eligible yet – with protections available.

Everyone is responsible for not discriminating.
Stop relying on suspensions and expulsions, shortened school days, informal removals and other punitive practices as primary responses and consequences for students with disabilities.

Main message - Don’t exclude a child from the classroom.
IEPs

- Review data for IEPs
  - In date?
  - Out of date?
- Re-evaluations
  - Data review
You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

—MAHATMA GANDHI
- Outstanding Professionals
- Strong Relationships
- Embracing Change
- Productive
- Value Teamwork
- Friendship