



State Advisory Panel For Special Education

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State Advisory Panel Meeting Agenda August 24-25, 2017 Macon Marriott (Macon, Georgia)

Thursday, August 24, 2017

Time	Final Decision(s)
9:30 am – 10:00 am Welcome/Opening Kimberleigh Beard, Chair Paul West, Vice Chair	Kimberleigh Beard and Paul West welcomed the FY18 Special Education State Advisory Panel (SAP) and asked each panel member to introduce him/herself.
10:00 am – 11:30 am Disproportionality Regulations (Carol Seay, Part B Data Manager, Georgia Department of Education)	<p>Carol Seay followed up on the new disproportionality regulations that were presented during the May 2017 SAP meeting. Since, this time, the Department has continued to engage stakeholders to determine the following criteria: minimum cell size, minimum n-size, risk ratio threshold, number of years \geq risk ratio threshold, and flexibility.</p> <p>After discussing the various options and reviewing impact data, Carol Seay divided the Panel members into groups to discuss further and offer stakeholder feedback. The feedback will be synthesized and reported at the next Panel meeting.</p>
11:30 am – 12:00 pm Dispute Resolution Data Jamila C. Pollard, Esq. (Dispute Resolution Unit, Program Manager Senior, Georgia Department of Education)	<p>The Georgia Department of Education has developed a preventative model to address dispute resolution based on resources and tools from CADRE’s Continuum of Dispute Resolution Processes & Practices. The continuum has multiple stages to include Stage I through Stage IV as implemented by the Department: Stage I Prevention (Prevention) Parent Engagement, State Advisory Panel, and Collaborative Rule Making; Stage II (Disagreement) Parent to Parent Assistance, Special Education Help Desk, and Telephone Intermediary; Stage III (Conflict) Facilitation; and Stage IV (Procedural Safeguards) Resolution Meeting, Mediation, Written State Complaints, and Due Process Hearing.</p> <p>GaDOE has created a special education help desk for parents and districts to answer questions. During FY17, the help desk had 1,514 contacts: 1,225 Parent Calls, 231 local administrators, 25 Advocates, and 33 teachers. SPEDhelpdesk@doe.k12.ga.us.</p> <p>The GaDOE has expanded implementation of the IEP Facilitation, which helps facilitate the IEP process, with a focus</p>

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	<p>on communication and problem solving. The IEP Facilitator is not an IEP Team member. The program is currently available in 20 LEAs. Data showed that almost all IEP participants were very satisfied with outcomes and believed that the process improved engagement.</p> <p>In FY17, the requests for mediations increased from 69 (FY 2014) to 115 (FY 2017).</p> <p>There were 127 formal complaints filed in FY 2017. Forty percent of the complaints were found to be in compliance, and thirty-two percent of the complaints were found to be out of compliance. The addition complaints were withdrawn.</p> <p>Resolution Sessions: meetings were held within 15 days after due process hearing request. In FY 2017 there were 138 requests; 60% were dismissed, 15% withdrawn, 10% were judged in favor of the district, and 1% were found in favor of the parents.</p> <p>Prevalent findings of noncompliance in formal complaints include the following areas: implementation of IEP (students not receiving services required in IEP); development, review and revision of the IEP (process of developing & revising IEP); evaluations and reevaluations; parent participation (includes notification about IEP meetings and “meaningful” parent participation); and least restrictive environment requirements (includes students receiving home-based and hospital-based services).</p>
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH (PROVIDED)
<p>1:00 pm – 3:30 pm</p> <p>APR Data Indicators (4b, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13)</p> <p>Significant Disproportionality (Identification, Placement, and Discipline)</p>	<p>Georgia will submit the FY 2016 Annual Performance Report on February 1, 2018. The State Advisory Panel is a required stakeholder group to give feedback and make recommendations.</p> <p>Indicator 4b (Significant Discrepancy) Four districts had significant discrepancy in the rate of children suspended or expelled for more than 10 days in a school year. One district had noncompliance that contributed to the significant discrepancy.</p> <p>Indicator 9 (Disproportionate Representation) Zero districts had disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in special education and related services.</p> <p>Indicator 10 (Disproportionate Representation) Forty-six districts had disproportionate representation of racial and ethnic groups in specific disability categories. Seventeen of those were found to have non-compliant policies, practices and procedures.</p> <p>Indicator 11 (Timelines-Percentage of students evaluated within</p>

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	<p>60 days of parental consent for initial evaluation & eligibility meeting.) Ninety-eight percent (98.55%) of children referred met this timeline. The 480 cases that did not meet the timeline included, in order of frequency, evaluator delays, parent delays, system errors, and student delays.</p> <p>Indicator 12 (Young Children Transition- Percentage of students referred to local school district who were eligible for Birth to 3, and have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays.) Ninety-nine percent (99.52%) of the 4,204 children referred from Babies Can't Wait had an IEP in place by the child's third birthday.</p> <p>Indicator 13 (Transition-Percentage of youth over the age of 16 who IEPs includes appropriate postsecondary goals, with courses of study to meet those goals.) Students must also be invited to attend the IEP meeting, as well as representatives of other agencies that support the youth. Ninety-nine percent of districts were found to have compliant practices after 4,055 plans were reviewed by GaDOE.</p>
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	BREAK/CHECK-IN
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm SAP Priority Setting for FY18 GaDOE Updates (Zelphine Smith-Dixon)	
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Public Comment(s)	<p>There were five public comments submitted via the online survey. The public commenters represented the following areas: Roswell, Snellville, Hoschton, Marietta, and Augusta.</p> <p>The following themes were discussed based on the public comments: concerns with flexibility and class size, school choice, family engagement, IEP training for local districts, access to the HOPE Scholarship, inclusive practices and progress monitoring. Special recognition was given for the ASPIRE implementation in local districts.</p>
6:00 pm	DINNER (PROVIDED)

Friday, August 25, 2017 – Macon Marriott

7:30 am – 8:30 am	BREAKFAST (PROVIDED)
8:30 am – 10:30 am Follow Up with the SAP By-Laws Next Steps	<p>The Panel discussed the rationale for eliminating the previously identified standing committees. These changes give the Executive Board flexibility for committees to form based on SAP’s priorities, which may shift. Topics may include family engagement, legislation (perhaps have a legislative update each meeting). Committees will have a chairperson, and that chairperson will be part of the Executive Committee to assist with agenda planning, etc. The SAP will establish committees during the next meeting and elect chairpersons.</p> <p>Absences were defined as not attending both days of a SAP meeting.</p> <p>The Panel held a discussion about if membership and attendance would improve if the SAP meeting would meet for a single day, but members agreed that two days are necessary. Dr. Smith-Dixon impressed on members the financial commitment associated with the Panel meeting and appropriate procedures for cancelation.</p> <p>The Panel voted to amend the operating procedures to fill key vacancies as needed during extenuating circumstances. Motion made and passed by SAP members to include this language in operating procedures.</p> <p>Steve Derr was recognized and thanked for his years of service on the SAP. Stacey Benson will fill Mr. Derr’s vacancy on the panel.</p>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45 am– 12:00 pm Wrap Up	<p>Kimberleigh Beard, Chair Paul West, Co-Chair</p> <p>The next SAP will be November 2-3, 2017 at the Macon Marriott in Macon Georgia.</p>

Complete	To Do
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report back to the State Advisory Panel the feedback about the new disproportionality regulations • Finalize revisions to the SAP operating procedures