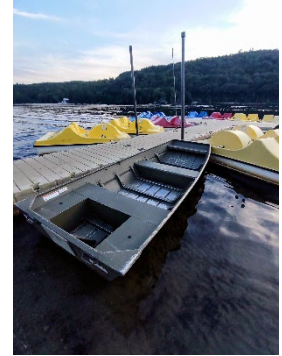


Special Education Nuggets

June 2023

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Items from the Interim State Director of Special Education:

Future Director Check In meeting will be June 12th from 3:00pm-4:00pm, contact [Sabine](#) if you do not have the link.

State of State will be pre-recorded and posted week of 6/12/23 [Special Education State of the State Reports](#)

Recent Special Education Director – list serv emails sent:

- Resources uploaded to rule changes website – 5/22/23
- May 8 Director Check In- Topics of Discussion and link- 5/8/23
- May Nuggets – 5/3/23
- Collection of Archived TA Tuesdays – 4/26/23
- PD Opportunities for May – 4/25/23
- FY-2023 IDEA-B Supplement re: Excess Cost Memo and Form -4/13/23
- FY24 IDEA LEAP form FW: Weekly Field Memo for April 12, 2023 – 4/13/23
- TA Tuesdays: VTmtss – 4/11/23
- OSEP's April 2023 Update: Director's Message | ED Updates | Announcements | Featured Resources - 4/5/23
- TA Tuesdays: Specially Designed Instruction - 4/4/23
- Updated Forms Available on Web – 4/3/23

Do you want to continue to receive the Nuggets? What more can we share with you in the Nuggets? [2 question survey](#)

OSEP RESOURCES

RESOURCES:

[Discipline Discussions: The Power of Asking “Why”](#)

In this month’s “Discipline Discussions” blog, the fifth in a series, OSEP Director Williams and the IRIS Center address behavior as a form of communication and the importance of asking “why” a child may act the way they act.

[OSEP Releases New Fast Facts on Students with Traumatic Brain Injury Served Under IDEA, Part B](#)

The Office of Special Education Programs released a new OSEP Fast Facts, which looks at Students Identified with a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Read more at [OSERS Blog](#) and in the [IDEA News/Updates](#).

[OSEP Newsletter:](#)

[May 2023](#) — Post-Secondary Data for Youths With Disabilities, OSEP Fast Facts on Students With Traumatic Brain Injury, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Global Accessibility Awareness and More

[April 2023](#) — Month of the Military Child, Engaging Families in the Digital Process, IDEA Data Center, and more

[March 2023](#) — OSEP Director Participates in White House Roundtable, Young Dual Language Learners, Webinars, Resources and More

[February 2023](#) — Resources related to: Assistive Technology and IDEA, Technical Assistance Opportunities, Visual Impairments in Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities, Resources and More

[Discipline Discussions: Informal Removals Matter | Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Blog:](#) Information and reminders of informal removals for students on IEPs.

Professional Development Opportunities

More [Special Education Rules Change](#) Trainings to come this August!

AOE VSMEE Summer Institute:

The AOE VSMEE Summer Institute, hosted by Vermont Family Network Executive Director Jacqui Kelleher, will be held virtually on August 8th, 2023, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. This training is mandatory for Special Education Mentors who work with Provisionally Licensed Special Educators. The Summer Institute will cover the fundamentals of Mentoring, Communication, Collaboration, and the VMSEE requirements for the year. It promises to be an informative and engaging experience, providing valuable insights for attendees to enhance their skills and knowledge in their respective fields.

General Monitoring and Supervision

Cyclic Monitoring Report Arrives June 15:

Supervisory Unions and School Districts in the current Cyclic Monitoring cohort will receive Monitoring Reports on June 15. This report includes a comparison of the data submitted by LEAs with compliance thresholds specified by the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act and/or Vermont Special Education Rules. We encourage all LEAs in Cyclic Monitoring to pay close attention to this report, as it will provide a roadmap and deadlines for correcting any findings of non-compliance. Contact AOE.SpecialEdMonitoringGroup@vermont.gov for answers to your questions.

Extended Special Education Team - Updates:

Interagency/Home Study:

Interagency:

Interested in knowing more about Developmental Services? Melanie Feddersen is the Developmental Disabilities Services Specialist Supervisor at DAIL (Dept of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living). She would like to (if possible) attend regional meetings, attend staff meetings etc...and engage in the conversations about adult students and what DAIL and the Designated Agencies can support/provide adult students and families. By attending (virtual or in person) meetings with administrators, she can shed some light on:

- Eligibility requirements for DD Services
- Adult students transitioning out of high school
- Available supports and services for youth and families both in school, in the home/community
- How to connect students and families with DS
- Funding of DS services
- Education/DS trends

Her goals would be to provide information, answer questions, help to decrease family and school stress by partnering with schools proactively.

Contact Melanie at melanie.feddersen@vermont.gov or at 802-289-0015 to discuss training/informational opportunities.

Home Study:

Home Study Enrollments continue to work through the team and will continue all summer. For families interested in pursuing Home Study Enrollment for the first time, either part or full time, please send them to our [website](#) for more information on the process and required forms. Please know that there is a current home study bill that has not been signed by Governor Scott which may change much of the Home Study process. We provide updates if/when it is signed. In the meantime, if you have additional or new staff who wish to receive the weekly Home Study Student List, or if you need to have staff removed from our list please email Marc at marc.grimes@vermont.gov to update the list. As a reminder, only Central Office staff have access to the list. Any questions regarding Home Study can be directed to aoe.homestudy@vermont.gov.

Independent Schools

Nothing at this time.

Early Childhood

Please review the following important letter from OSEP Division Director Greg Corr.

Dear Part B Directors and 619 Coordinators:

It has come to our attention that in initial evaluations have sometimes been delayed or denied by local educational agencies (LEAs) until a child goes through the multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) process, sometimes referred to as Response to Intervention (RTI). Although the term RTI is no longer commonly used to describe a State's multi-tiered system of supports, the attached memoranda apply to all tiered systems of support, whether the State uses a RTI, MTSS or a unique State name. The basis for these memoranda is the child find requirements in Section 612(a)(3) of the IDEA. Each IDEA Part B and Part C grantee must ensure it has a system in place for meeting the child find requirements as a condition for funding.

OSEP reminds State educational agencies and LEAs that the Part B regulations at **34 C.F.R. §300.301(b)** allow a parent to request an initial evaluation *at any time* to determine if a child is a child with a disability under IDEA. As **OSEP Memorandum 11-07** states, MTSS/RTI may not be used to delay or deny a full and individual evaluation under **34 C.F.R. §§300.304-300.311** for a child suspected of having a disability. *With respect to preschool children, IDEA does not require or encourage a local or preschool program to use a MTSS approach prior to referral for evaluation or as part of determining whether a 3-, 4-, or 5-year-old is eligible for special education and related services. Once an LEA receives a referral from a preschool program, the LEA must initiate an evaluation process to determine if the child is a child with a disability. See: 34 C.F.R. §300.301(b).*

OSEP recommends that you review the attached memoranda and distribute them to LEAs and intermediate education units within your State. Please let them know that because the content of these memoranda reflects IDEA statutory and regulatory requirements, they are still in effect.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please contact your OSEP State Lead.

1. [OSEP Memorandum 11-07](#)--A Response to Intervention (RTI) Process Cannot Be Used to Delay-Deny an Evaluation for Eligibility under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (January 21, 2011); and
2. [OSEP Memorandum 16-07](#)--A Response to Intervention Process Cannot be Used to Delay-Deny an Evaluation for Preschool Education Services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (April 29, 2016).

Gregg Corr, Ed.D.
Division Director
Monitoring and State improvement Planning
Office of Special Education Programs

Help Me Grow Vermont

This summer, Help Me Grow Vermont is offering a selection of training courses on the ASQ 3 and ASQ SE-2 tools. Thanks to valuable feedback from our partners, three training dates have been selected:

- June 8th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- July 20th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- August 15th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This training is designed for family facing professionals who are new to or needing a refresher on developmental screening using the ASQ-3 and/or the ASQ:SE2 screening tool alongside families.

At the conclusion of this training, participants will:

1. Understand the collective role in ensuring all Vermont children have a strong foundation for subsequent health, growth, learning and behavior through developmental promotion activities, developmental screening using the electronic administration, and linkages to supports and services.
2. Learn how to administer the ASQ-3 and/or ASQ:SE2 tool alongside families.
3. Understand the connection between early childhood development and the child/family's social context and environments.
4. Explore how Help Me Grow (HMG) tips the scale toward positive child outcomes and resiliency so all Vermont children can develop, thrive, and reach their full potential.
5. Receive individualized technical assistance and guidance from Help Me Grow content experts.

To register, please email us at info@helpmegrowvt.org and indicate which training date you would like to register for. We ask that you include names and email addresses of all participants registering from your program, as well as BFIS numbers for those who have one. Individual registrations will also be accepted.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team at info@helpmegrowvt.org.

Data News

Child Count Exiting Collection Opening This Month:

The School Year 2022-2023 Child Count Exiting Collection will open in late June and remain open until July 17, 2023. Submitted data must be accurate as of June 30, 2023. District and Supervisory Union personnel in charge of special education data can find Child Count Reporting instructions by logging into the [secure AOE file transfer website](#). The [Child Count Reporting Instructions](#) are also available online.

If you have any questions, please [contact the AOE Child Count Team](#).

Special Education Finance

Special Education Finance:

- The FY24 IDEA Part B application is available in GMS
 - a. FY23 IDEA Part B Carry over amounts will not appear in GMS until your final FY23 close out report is submitted, approved and you submit your first FY24 IDEA amendment (September-October)
 - b. The LEAP form to be uploaded in your application is here; [LEA Plan Assurances for IDEA Part B FY 24 Print Version \(vermont.gov\)](#)
 - c. Form 10b is on page 10 here; [Parentally-Placed Students in Non-public Schools \(including Home Study\) and Proportionate Share Requirements \(vermont.gov\)](#)
 - d. All equipment purchases with unit price(s) \$5,000 and above, must have prior approval by submitting an equipment approval application in the central data collections section in GMS

If you have questions, please contact [Jennifer Perry](#)

Assessment

End-of-Testing Reminders and Updates:

As a reminder, schools have until Friday, June 9 (8:00 p.m. ET) to complete all tests. **All started tests will be automatically submitted after Friday, June 9.** Please note this is a change from what was previously communicated during the office hours. Further, students who complete five or more items on a test will receive a score for that test.

We ask that all requests for participation exemptions due to medical emergencies also be submitted by Friday, June 9. Please use this form to request a medical emergency exemption, [VTCAP Medical Emergency Exemption Form](#).

After a school has completed all testing, please ask the principal to complete the Certification of Proper Test Administration, which can be found here: [Principal's Certification of Proper Test Administration](#). Please submit all forms by Tuesday, June 13.

Post-Administration Feedback:

The AOE is very interested in feedback from all of you, proctors and other staff involved in the test administration process. We plan to send out a survey soliciting feedback on Friday, June 9. Please feel free to share this survey with your colleagues. The survey will include opportunities to participate in stakeholder debriefing sessions. You can also submit feedback directly by emailing it to aoe.statewideassessment@vermont.gov.

Reporting Timeline:

For the general summative assessment, the expected dates for individual student reports, data and dynamic reporting to be available in ADAM is Thursday, August 17, for grades 3-8 and 11, and Tuesday, September 19, for grade 9. These dates apply to all content areas.

For the alternate summative assessment, individual student reports will be available in the MSAA system, and data and dynamic reporting in LENS, from Monday, July 17, to Friday, September 8, for English language arts and mathematics, and from Monday, October 16, to Friday, October 27, for science. These dates apply to all grade levels.

Additional information on reporting to come.